

Mubarak warning of Gulf 'explosion'

Bush runs out of patience with 'brutal' Saddam

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush said last night that he had "had it" with the brutal treatment of Americans by President Saddam Hussein.

He voiced his exasperation as President Mubarak of Egypt gave a warning that the confrontation in the Gulf could explode at any moment. A British commander and a former Saudi minister also indicated that war was increasingly likely.

Iraq said that it was prepared for a "major confrontation" and was on alert for any attack, but its ambassador to Washington again called for a negotiated settlement and said he wanted to avoid bloodshed.

Even as talk of war echoed around the Gulf yesterday, the search for a peaceful solution continued. Mr Bush said he still intended "for now" to follow diplomatic efforts to drive President Saddam out of Kuwait, and King Hussein of Jordan resumed his shuttle diplomacy in talks with the Sultan of Oman.

The Soviet special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, who has just returned home after his second visit to Baghdad in a

month, said that he thought President Saddam was becoming more open to a political solution. Mr Mubarak, however, said that Mr Primakov's mission had produced no clear results. He rejected President Gorbachev's call for an emergency Arab summit, saying that without anything specific to discuss, such a meeting would degenerate into "a summit of insults".

Mr Mubarak responded to fears that war was imminent by sending his foreign minister to Jeddah for urgent talks with the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers. But he also adopted a more conciliatory tone to Baghdad when he said that Egypt was willing to help Iraq in negotiations about its dispute with Kuwait after a withdrawal.

Mr Bush's growing impatience was evident when he spoke to reporters in Alexandria, Virginia. He complained



Hine: Iraqi withdrawal increasingly unlikely

about the treatment of Americans at the embassy in Kuwait and said: "What am I going to do about it? Let's just wait and see. I have had it with that kind of treatment of Americans. Our people inside are being starved by a brutal dictator. Do you think I'm concerned about it? You're damn right I am."

The American embassy has had power and water supplies cut off and officials conditions inside the compound are deteriorating. Mr Bush has been alarmed by reports from returning hostages of atrocities being committed in occupied Kuwait. "I am concerned about the lives of Americans," the president said, adding that he wanted the American public to understand how strongly he felt about the brutality of Saddam Hussein.

But the Iraqi ambassador to Washington, Muhammad Sadiq al-Mashat, told a news conference that the plight of American diplomats in Kuwait was "an American problem". He hoped American leaders "will listen to the voices of reason and will not heed those who are calling for a quick and devastating military strike. We seek to avoid bloodshed. We'd like to establish good relations with the United States."

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, have reiterated this week that military action has not been ruled out, but the White House Chief of Staff, John Sununu, insisted in a television interview: "The president continues to be patient. I think this president is still committed to making sure he does everything on the diplomatic front to avoid hostilities."

Back in Washington, Mr Bush said that Mr Baker's forthcoming tour of the Middle East and Europe would be "very important". He added: "We'll be talking about all kinds of alternatives and doing everything we can to see that no stone is left unturned in determining how we implement the UN resolutions."

Mr Baker leaves for Bahrain on Saturday, and will also visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, France and Britain. His tour will include a meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, in Europe tomorrow week. The White House has denied that Mr Baker intends to discuss a possible timetable for military action, but the administration's recent focus on the plight of American hostages has raised speculation that it might consider the severe treatment of the captives sufficient provocation for an attack against Iraq. The invasion of Panama was launched on the grounds that Panamanian troops had illegally harmed American citizens.

The Pentagon is preparing to send as many as 100,000 more American troops to the Middle East to back up the 210,000 already there, and yesterday the home-based commander of the British forces in the Gulf said the 7th Armoured Brigade would be fully operational for an offensive campaign by the middle of the month.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine said: "It is looking increasingly unlikely that Saddam Hussein will withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait. Once 7th Armoured Brigade complete their in-theatre work-up, we will be ready fully to support offensive operations should a political decision be taken to force the Iraqis out."

Sir Patrick's tough statement was matched by the intense activity in the reinforced concrete operational bunker at RAF High Wycombe from which he spoke. The bunker is the nerve centre for Operation Granby, British air operations against Iraq. Continued on page 26, col 1

Summit rejected, page 12
Leading article, page 15

Drug agency enquiry on Lockerbie bomb

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CLAIMS that an undercover operation by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration was used to carry the bomb which blew up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, killing 270 people, were being investigated last night.

It has been suggested that terrorists infiltrated an undercover anti-drug smuggling operation and placed a bomb instead of heroin in a DEA shipment. An announcement

of the result of the enquiry is expected this week. The DEA is thought to be investigating the suggestion that Khalid Jafar, aged 21, a Lebanese-American student from Detroit, may have been tricked into taking the bomb. Last night Pan Am in New York had no comment on the claim, made by the National Broadcasting Corporation.

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Delors: witty titles were open to press ridicule

meeting yesterday in London of academics, industrialists, government and commission officials held to discuss new community-wide collaborative research projects.

After 1992 all the Brussels acronyms will be replaced and all new ones have been cancelled in favour of more serious sounding, or fuller, titles. BEP and BAP, the Pinky and Perky of the community's biotechnology projects, have already been phased out in favour of BRIDGE, Biotechnology Research for Innovation Development and Growth in Europe. Now they are struggling to find a less catchy name which can still fit on one side of A4.

The exact nature of the editorial cracks which have annoyed M Delors remains unclear. It is possible that developments from FAST, Forecasting and Assessment of Science and Technology, have been a little slow. Or that those

from ECLAIR, the European Collaborative Linkage of Agriculture and Industry through Research, may have turned sour.

There have been suggestions that even the Brussels bureaucrats in the witty acronym department were becoming mentally exhausted at the sheer pace of new projects coming on stream.

Some EC officials fear, however, that the new names, through translation, may be more open to ridicule than those they replace. The community's science programme, for example, was known by the name STIMULATION. The commission could not understand why proposals from academics and industrialists in Denmark had been so low for it. Realisation dawned when it was pointed out by a polite Danish official that stimulation, translated into his mother tongue, meant something more suited to Bangkok than to Brussels.



President Bush yesterday: "I have had it with that kind of treatment of Americans."

TUC pay talks offer rejected

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government yesterday rejected a "serious" proposal from the TUC for joint discussions with employers and Conservative ministers on pay, productivity and related issues in the wake of entry to the exchange-rate mechanism.

The rejection of the TUC's offer by Michael Howard, employment secretary, prompted even moderate union leaders to say that without such talks they would have no choice but to seek pay settlements which were at least in line with inflation.

The TUC's offer was made at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the only body at which the government, employers and unions discuss the economy. In addition to a document prepared for the meeting that the unions would accept their responsibilities to avoid the job loss costs of ERM entry provided the government and employers would, too, Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, tabled what he called a serious proposal for formal talks.

Mr Willis said that the TUC wanted "a top-level group to discuss a national assessment of the effects of European integration and the ERM". Continued on page 26, col 6

Haughey back from the brink as Lenihan goes

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE 15-month coalition government of Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, came within minutes of collapse last night before being saved by the dramatic sacking of his deputy, Brian Lenihan.

After a day of extraordinary uncertainty and tension which saw a no-confidence debate in the Dail - defeated by the government 83-80 - riven with insults traded on all sides, Mr Lenihan, defence minister and Fianna Fail presidential candidate, was dismissed from his cabinet posts by Mr Haughey, with whom he has worked for 30 years.

It was a step which Mr Haughey was forced to take, with the reluctant backing of his party, to ensure that the junior coalition partners, the

Progressive Democrats, could have sown the seeds for a leadership challenge on Mr Haughey. His detractors were openly accusing him of having sacrificed one of his greatest friends to save his own career.

Mr Lenihan is alleged to have lied on live television last week about his role in telephone calls made to the residence of the president in January 1982 during an earlier constitutional crisis. At that time three Fianna Fail front benchers, including Mr Haughey, attempted to persuade Patrick Hillery, the outgoing president, to allow a transfer of power to Mr Haughey without calling a general election after the unexpected collapse of a Fine Gael/Labour coalition.

Yesterday Mr Lenihan continued to hold fast, refusing to resign or to turn up to two tense Fianna Fail parliamentary party meetings. It was clear that his relationship with Mr Haughey, who evidently wanted to avoid an election at all costs, was under immense strain. It is thought that Mr Lenihan's family, led by his sister, Mary O'Rourke, the education minister, were insisting that he alone should not take all the blame for an episode in which Mr Haughey also played a key role. There was speculation that the trauma inflicted on Fianna



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Delors Ejects Lots Of Ridiculed Sobriquets

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

EVA and FLAIR, not exactly household names but celebrities in the research and development community, are to be unceremoniously bumped off on the orders of Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president. The pair, it has emerged, have attracted ridicule and abuse from insensitive journalists.

When EVA, the European search for an Aids vaccine, comes to an end in 1992 she will be replaced by something that sounds more worthy. Flair - Food Linked Agro-Industrial Research - awaits a similar fate.

"The witty acronym department is being closed. The names have been mocked by the press. Personally I thought they were good for publicity," said Charles White, an official with the EC's directorate generale X11, at a

Patten plan to keep poll tax down attacked

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND DOUGLAS BROOM

STRINGENT capping powers designed to keep next year's community charge increases below the rate of inflation were unveiled by the government yesterday and immediately provoked predictions of big cuts in council services.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, announced an array of measures aimed at keeping the average poll tax bill below the sensitive level of £400 in the run-up to the general election.

Some big-spending councils which increase their budgets by sums well below inflation could still be capped if they exceed the government's assessment of reasonable spending, according to criteria denounced as "draconian" by the Labour party.

Mr Patten told MPs that the average poll tax next year should not be much higher than £380, after this year's average of £357. The Audit Commission disclosed meanwhile that one in ten people have not yet paid their community charge bills.

By announcing capping rules in advance, Mr Patten is hoping to deter councils from exceeding the government's limits. If they did so they would be volunteering for capping, he told MPs.

But Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, declared that the announcement meant that every poll tax bill next year would have the government's fingerprints on it.

As expected, Mr Patten announced that the business rate next year would rise in line with the current inflation figure of 10.9 per cent, taking it up from 34.8p to 38.6p, bringing fierce complaints from business organisations. The CBI said the new business rate would add £1 billion to

business costs next year. John Banham, the director general, said: "This is precisely the kind of inflationary own goal that should be avoided. The government cannot expect to be taken seriously if it fails to practise what it preaches."

The government's determination to hold down council spending brings nearer the prospect of legal action by Labour-controlled education authorities which are being urged to challenge ministers if cuts damage schools.

In a parallel announcement, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said that £17.5 billion in central grant announced yesterday would be spent on schools, an increase of 16 per cent. He said it would help "lever up" standards.

Mr Patten won an extra £3 billion from the Treasury to ease next year's bills. But the extra cash will enable councils to increase their spending by only 7 per cent, well below the rate of inflation.

The new formula for judging whether capping is necessary will include a comparison between next year's and this year's budgets. The criteria are:

• Any rise of more than 9 per cent over last year's budget will be considered excessive if it pushes the budget over the government-set standard spending assessment (SSA) for the council.

• Any rise of more than 7 per cent will be considered excessive if it pushes the budget 5 per cent above the SSA.

• Any rise of more than 5 per cent will be considered excessive if it puts the budget 10 per cent over the SSA. This means that some councils making increases half the rate of inflation could still be capped. • Any budget increase of 12.5 per cent over the SSA will be considered excessive.

The 250 or more councils with budgets under £15m, the majority of them Conservative-controlled, shire districts, will continue to be exempt from capping.

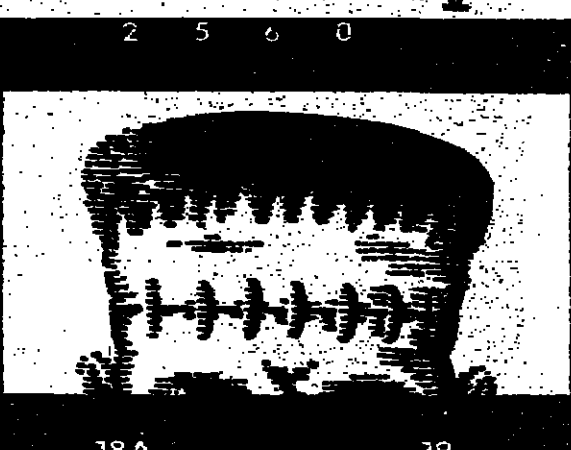
Mr Patten said the rise in the business rate should ensure the burden on business would remain broadly the same.

Mr Gould asked why people should pay any more attention to Mr Patten's estimate of £380 than they had to his assurance that this year's bill would average just £278.

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Analysis, page 2

Are you being stitched up?

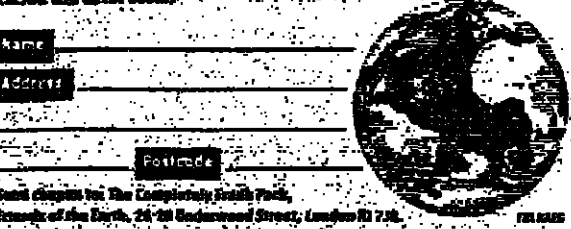


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Ministers fly from around the world for dogfight that never was



Tim Eggar: twice across the Atlantic in 24 hours

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

FIVE Commons ministers flew back to Britain at public expense yesterday, four of them from other continents, to guarantee the government's success in the final round of the great dogs' rebellion. In the event their presence proved unnecessary. Fears of upsetting the elected chamber led the Lords to reject the third Tory backbench amendment this session for setting up a national register for Britain's 7.3 million dogs.

Conservative whips demanded the return of the ministers in case the Lords again voted for Lord Stanley of Alderley's amendment

for a register, leading to a further vote in the Commons in the closing minutes of the session.

Tim Eggar, the education minister, barely had time to unpack in Barbados where he was due to attend a Commonwealth education conference, before being ordered back to Britain. He intends returning to the conference.

He said last night: "I left Gatwick at 10.45 on Tuesday morning and arrived back here at 9.45am today, so I spent 23 hours in the air except for one-and-a-half hours in Barbados. I did reflect on the importance of education in the Commonwealth as against dog registration."

Ian Lang, the Scottish Office minister, was brought back from Japan. Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, flew in from Brazil. William Waldegrave, the foreign office minister, cut short a visit to Algeria and the Northern Ireland minister, Brian Mawhinney, returned from the province in case the government needed to marshal the full complement of Commons ministers to see off registration.

In addition a visit by the home affairs select committee to Manchester was cancelled because of the three-line whip.

A total of 74 Tory peers, who had not taken part in the first dog vote in the Lords, were whipped

to support the government. They can claim travelling and living expenses. The number of Tory rebels in the Lords was 26. The final voting record on dogs this session reads: the first Commons vote against registration failed by 12 votes; the first Lords vote in favour by 72 votes; a second Commons vote against failed by three votes; and a second Lords vote against registration failed by 19 votes.

After observing the death throes of the dog registration dispute from the steps of the throne in the Lords, the government's chief whip, Tim Renton, said: "We were in danger of losing the environmental protection bill and

with it a lot of sensible measures. We did not want to lose it. This is the cost of democracy. Whether it was justified in bringing people back — ask Lord Stanley," Mr Renton said.

By comparison, Lord Denham, the government's chief whip in the Lords and a cousin of the rebels' leader Lord Stanley, did not resort to heavy whipping of Tory peers in case, once in the upper House, they voted against the government.

Gavin Grant, for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said last night: "Naturally it is disappointing, but it shows no reduction in the support for registration in the

Lords or for the principles of registration. It was apparent from the speeches made on the floor that individuals who support registration felt they could not return the bill to the Commons for fear about the constitutional position of the Lords and for fears about the future of the bill itself. We had clearly failed to satisfy them on that. But I think it does demonstrate that this issue will not go away."

The Labour MP Tony Banks tabled a question last night to find out the cost of bringing back the ministers.

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Political sketch, page 26

Councils strapped for cash as millions default on poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of people are still refusing to pay the poll tax, six months after its introduction, and councils have received only two-thirds of the income they would have expected under the rating system.

A survey published yesterday by the Audit Commission showed that in spite of tough action by councils against defaulters, one in ten of the 37 million charge payers in England had still paid nothing by last Friday.

Councils, which under the rating system would have received more than two-thirds (70 per cent) of their rate income by October, had recovered just under half (48 per cent) of the money due from poll tax payers, the report said. Two-thirds of them had been forced to borrow money to make up the shortfall in spite of changes to the grant system designed to

give councils more money early in the financial year. Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said that borrowing combined with non-payment would force up poll tax bills next year by up to 20 per cent. The study predicted that most of the non-payers would be taken to court to recover poll tax arrears.

As well as being more difficult to administer, the poll tax cost more to collect, £12 a head compared with £5 for rates, the commission said. "From the point of view of collection costs there is no doubt that rates were a more efficient tax," Mr Davies said. "But you have to remember that you would expect to see some problems in the first year of any new tax system."

He blamed the government for making matters worse by the late delivery of poll tax regulations to councils and

criticised the "poor performance" of software companies who sold poll tax collection systems to councils. The survey, of 35 councils in England and Wales, showed that moves by councils to take non-payers to court over the past two months had led to a sharp increase in the number of people paying the tax. The proportion of people who had paid nothing fell from one in six at the end of August to one in ten by last Friday.

However, almost a quarter of Londoners have yet to pay anything. Non-payment in the Labour-controlled Borough of Haringey is running at 42 per cent. In shire districts 92 per cent of residents had made at least one payment compared with 88 per cent in metropolitan areas and 78 per cent in London. Mr Davies said: "The general message is that the community charge system is beginning to work in most places. But some places have serious problems."

The study, the most authoritative yet produced, noted that the workload on council finance departments had more than doubled. Maintaining the register of poll tax payers was also proving far harder than anticipated. In London the average turnover of population was between 45 and 50 per cent of the names on the poll tax register.

The study found that collection of the business rate was progressing better than the poll tax with receipts at or near target. It was also much cheaper to collect at 6p in the pound for administration.

The environment department said last night: "The commission's findings bear out what we have been saying. Most people are now paying the charge." The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said the report showed that the poll tax collection was more expensive than refuse collection.

The Administration of the Community Charge (Audit Commission, Stationery Office, £6)

Tunnel contact right on target

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AS the inhabitants of the United Kingdom began to adjust to the idea that Britain is no longer an island, Channel tunnel engineers announced that the two-inch probe which linked the two tunnel sections on Tuesday was "less than the width of a handkerchief off target".

Driving the two giant tunnel boring machines under the English Channel, which included moving up and down and from side to side to keep within the meandering soft chalk strata, and arriving a few inches from target "was a spectacular engineering achievement," John Hamlen, the spokesman for Transmanche Link, said.

The two-inch bore hole was spotted at about 7.30pm by a team of French tunnelers, led by Philippe Dumond. The celebrations were marred, however, when an underground train carrying surveyors to the breakthrough point collided with a stationary train, resulting in a number of minor injuries.

The surveyors had been sent to the tunnel face to analyse the information collected by an optical sensor, inserted into the bore hole, which contains data needed for the final phase of the service tunnel breakthrough.

Work began yesterday on dismantling the 400-tonne French tunnel boring machine, known as Brigitte. The British boring machine will be started up and swung round alongside its French counterpart, where it is to be entombed in concrete because it would be too expensive to bring it to the surface.

Work will then begin on excavating the man-sized passage between the two tunnel sections, with construction scheduled for completion in



Breakthrough: an engineer on the French side checking the hole made by the probe

December, making it possible to walk between Britain and France. The political ceremony will be held in January, when Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand will meet in the tunnel formally to link the two countries. With the completion of the service tunnel, most of the 80 English, Irish, and Australian construction workers on the British

machine will be made redundant. Many hope to find new jobs on a new railway tunnel being built in Denmark.

After congratulating the construction workers for linking up the two tunnel sections, Alistair Morton, deputy chairman of Eurotunnel, said the awesome construction risks involved in excavating the Channel tunnel were now

"massively reduced". The growing conviction that the tunnel will be built, effectively bringing to an end 8,000 years of physical isolation between Britain and the Continent has been substantially reinforced. "The tunnel is now a fact," Mr Morton said.

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Rights issue details, page 27

EC laws could be opened to challenge

By PETER GUILFORD IN
BRUSSELS AND FRANCES GIBBS

Citizens could be given the right to challenge European Community laws affecting their private lives directly before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Such a right of access on complaints arising from Community law would for the first time bring a whole range of EC policy within the direct challenge of individuals for the first time.

It results from a move in Brussels to ask the EC to become a signatory, along with the 24 other nations, to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The European Commission's senior legal expert, Jean-Louis Dewost, said yesterday that as more and more of community policy touched on personal matters such as residence rights, working conditions and the protection of privacy, it was shocking that the community should remain outside the broader convention. EC powers, he said, were growing at a rate of knots.

Milk scare case

Lawrence White, the food importer who started the health scare over lead in milk last year, was convicted yesterday of selling unsafe products by magistrates at Teignmouth, south Devon. White, of Exton, Devon, and his firm Torre Foods, were each conditionally discharged for 18 months and ordered to pay £250 costs for offences under the Trades Descriptions Act and the Agriculture Act.

IRA 'blasphemy'

The murder of a soldier in an IRA human bomb attack last week was a blasphemy, mourners at his funeral in Liverpool were told yesterday. Father John Thompson, speaking at a mass in Walton for Kingsman Scott, aged 21, said: "It offended God and man. It broke the Commandments. It degrades the words 'human beings' when they use human bombs. But only good, not evil, can win."

Back in the air

Timothy Lancaster, the pilot who was almost sucked from the cockpit of a British Airways aircraft when the windscreen shattered at 23,000ft in June, returned to flying yesterday and said: "It was easier than I thought it was going to be." He flew a round trip from Heathrow to Dublin. Captain Lancaster, aged 41, had suffered a broken arm, wrist and thumb, and frostbite, but his crew landed the aircraft.

First warrant sales loom in Scotland

By KERRY GILL

THE first warrant sales to recover community charge debts are expected to take place in Scotland within two weeks, the leader of Strathclyde regional council said yesterday.

About 200,000 cases of non-payment have been passed to sheriff officers acting for the regional council, which is owed almost £70 million in unpaid poll tax bills from last year and the first seven months of this financial year.

Charles Gray, council leader, said that the tax had been proved to be virtually uncollectable from people who either could not or would not pay. With only an 85 per cent payment level, the council would have to cut services and lay off staff, and Strathclyde was already budgeting for a 2 per cent cutback next year, a saving of at least £42 million.

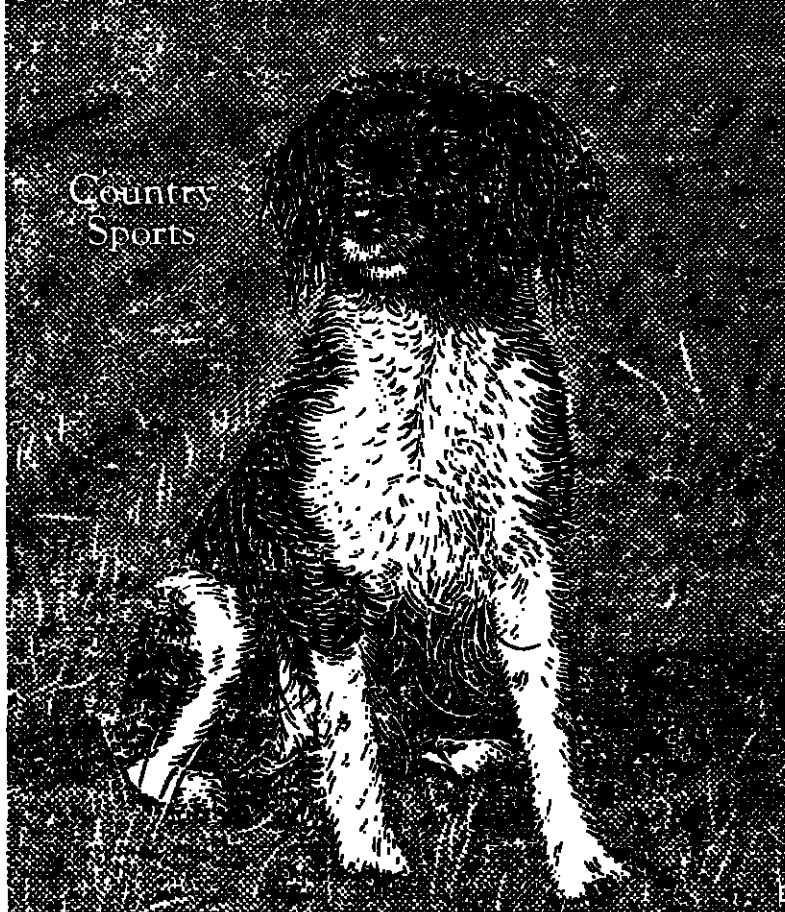
to make ends meet. The region yesterday dropped its attempts to seize university and college tuition fees from up to 1,000 students who have refused to pay the tax.

Council leaders and their advisers decided it was not worth the effort or expense after Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said the move would be illegal and challenged the region to take the matter to court.

Relations between Strathclyde and the Scottish Office are clearly at a new low. Mr Gray said that his council had never held a single warrant sale to recover domestic rates. "Never will we get back to a time when we will be able to collect 99 per cent because of the way this government has behaved. There are fires being lit in this country over the poll tax that will never be put out."

Country Sports Number

COUNTRY LIFE



Country Sports

- The Purbeck and Bovingdon Beagles 21st birthday meet
- Walking up grouse — new approach to an old problem
- The idyll and the nightmare of cross-country riding
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COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

Liverpool leaders attacked over debt

By RONALD FAUX

THE moderate Labour leadership on Liverpool city council faced jeers outside the council chambers yesterday from demonstrators protesting against possible redundancies. Councilors were meeting to discuss plans by the financial control committee to deal with the city's financial problems.

The Labour leadership was attacked by left-wing Labour councillors at the meeting for taking delegated powers to make decisions in which the full council would have no say.

Mike Storey, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, accused successive Labour administrations of tarnishing the image of the city. "I wonder if you know what damage you are doing. Would

anyone seriously come to invest in a city when we seem to be hovering on the edge of financial crisis or up to our necks in alleged corruption?" he asked.

Militants, he said, never had a majority in the Labour group or on the council, yet every decision made in the eight years of Labour control, with the exception of the last few months, was made because the Labour group voted for them. "Derek Hatton ruled in this city because he was your man and Labour kept voting for his policies and schemes." Liverpool needed root and branch change to remove power from smoke-filled rooms and put it back into the hands of the people.

Kenneth Baker, the Conservative

party chairman, speaking in Bootle yesterday during a by-election rally, said that Liverpool could expect no help from the government in solving the crisis which could put the city £10.1 million in debt and in the hands of the district auditor.

Mr Baker said that over the years Liverpool had been given a great deal of help and the mess the city now found itself in was the creation of local Labour politicians. "They have to put their own house in order and face up to reality. Liverpool is a classic example of how bad a city can go if it falls into the hands of a Labour party. Moderate or extreme Labour is a small choice among rotten apples," he added.

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Drug agency orders enquiry into 'link' to Lockerbie bomb

By KERRY GILL

THE United States Drug Enforcement Administration is expected to announce the results of an investigation this week into allegations that one of its undercover operations could have been used to smuggle the bomb on board Pan Am flight 103 which blew up over Lockerbie, killing 270 people.

Con Dougherty, for the DEA, confirmed last night that an enquiry had been ordered after a National Broadcasting Corporation television report — also carried by the American Broadcasting Corporation — claimed some Pan Am flights from Frankfurt to the US were used to fly informants and suitcases of heroin from the Middle East to Detroit. "Although no evidence has surfaced to substantiate such claims, we are conducting an enquiry into these allegations."

He said his organisation was keen to get to the bottom of the matter, not simply as part of the overall investigation into the disaster, but out of compassion for the relatives of those killed on December 21 1988. Law enforce-

ment sources were said to fear that terrorists found out what the DEA was doing, infiltrated an undercover operation and placed a bomb instead of heroin in a DEA shipment.

The DEA is believed to be looking into whether Khalid Jafar, aged 21, a Lebanese-American student from Detroit, might have been tricked by terrorists into taking the bomb on to the flight. The NBC report, citing anonymous sources, said investigators found that the part-time student made frequent trips to Lebanon, where his mother lived, and linked him in Frankfurt with people active in the Middle East-to-Europe drug trade. The bomb was contained in a cassette recorder within a Samsonite suitcase.

It has emerged that several passengers on the stricken flight were believed to have flown from Larnaca, Cyprus, before carrying on to Heathrow. It was suggested at the judicial enquiry into the 270 deaths that at least two might have been CIA employees who had started their journey in Beirut. Jim Swire, the spokesman for the

British relatives who lost their daughter in the disaster, asked: "If the DEA was involved why are we hearing about it only now, two years later? If they have been wilfully obstructing a criminal investigation by concealing the truth the implications are enormous. It would make Watergate look like a picnic."

"We have always suspected the CIA or other US secret agencies knowing more than they would say. Just spare a thought for the family of the man who had been working for the DEA and was a passenger on Flight 103, who thought he was carrying a bag of drugs to help fight abuse in the US and inadvertently carried his own death with him on to the plane."

The NBC report quoted an airline source as saying: "Informants would put cases of heroin on the Pan Am flights apparently without the usual security checks, through an arrangement between the DEA and German authorities." Last night Pan Am in New York had no comment on the report.

Lee Kreindler, senior lawyer for American and some British relatives, condemned the report and described it as an attempt to deflect attention from Pan Am security at a time when it was being explored at the judicial enquiry in Scotland.

Mr Kreindler said the report had first surfaced about a year ago. "On that occasion it was timed to coincide with depositions which we were taking in Frankfurt and which were very damaging to Pan Am. The same coincidence appears to have happened again. Here we are in the middle of the enquiry which is giving good answers. We have also got good answers in our litigation in the United States. Then all of a sudden there is a report that the DEA is investigating an old story. The timing is suspicious."

Mr Kreindler, who is also chairman of the plaintiffs' committee for the US civil litigation, said that the report had been leaked in the first place by Juvav Aviv, who was employed by Pan Am's insurers. "We investigated it at the time and found it to be full of misinformation and distortion."

American officials have made it known that they believed that Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, was the author of the bombing.



Swire: "This would make Watergate look like picnic"

Divorce law reform scraps role of fault

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest reform in divorce laws for more than 20 years, introducing a concept of "divorce over time" and abolishing the role of fault or misbehaviour, will be published today.

The newly awaited proposals, from the Law Commission for England and Wales, are likely to form the basis of legislation as part of a package of reforms on the family. At the core of the proposals will be the principle of putting the needs of children first. Before a divorce is granted, couples will have to sort out questions concerning the children's upbringing, access, financial relief and division of property.

The reform would be a reversal of the present law, where children's issues are often resolved after the divorce decree nisi has been obtained. The "process over

time" divorce, expected to be nine months to a year, will also allow couples to take up counselling, mediation and conciliation during the divorce process. Reformers want to end the bitterness and acrimony which the present divorce laws help to foster.

The proposals would end a long process of reform to the divorce laws in which there has been a shift away from fault. The present law went some way towards this. However, the present basis for divorce, irretrievable breakdown of marriage, still retains fault in three of the five grounds which can be cited to show breakdown.

The government has already indicated its support for a change in the divorce laws to force couples to consider the consequences of a separation with the minimum of bitterness. Last week, Lord Macaulay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, gave his clearest support yet to a divorce process over time, forcing couples to face the consequences of their actions.

The proposals are the result of a full-scale review of divorce laws. Draft options for reform proposals were published by the Law Commission in 1983, including a "process over time" and an alternative option of a sole separation ground of one year.

A scheme in which divorcing parents on low incomes will be offered mediation to sort out disputes on custody and finance is being launched by the Family Mediators' Association and the Children's Society. The project, to be tested in Devon, will offer the service to some low-income families at legal aid rates. Other couples will be charged more, but less than solicitors' fees.

Marsh 'gave visit as alibi'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERRY Marsh told detectives that he was visiting an aunt when his father was shot, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

In taped interviews after his arrest, Mr Marsh allegedly said that on November 30 last year, after visiting a gymnasium in Wapping, east London, and calling at his flat to organise the sale of some furniture, he drove to his Aunt Winnie's house in Stepney Green.

The court was told that Marsh, a former world light welterweight boxing champion, claimed to have spent an hour drinking tea and discussing family matters before leaving at about 9pm.

He then drove to Basildon, Essex, where he met his brother John in a public house. He told police that it was only after closing time, when he arrived at his parent's house in the town,

that he was told that his estranged wife Jacqui had telephoned his father with news of the shooting. He tried to ring her to find out what had happened but could get no reply.

Detective Inspector Peter Wiggins, who interviewed Mr Marsh on January 17 and 18, told him during the second interview that his alibi had been checked and that the aunt said he had not visited her. Mr Marsh, aged 32, who denies attempting to murder Mr Warren, aged 38, in Barking, east London, shortly after 8pm on November 30 allegedly replied: "You are bullshitting."

Mr Marsh accepted that as a former Royal Marine he had received firearms training. But he said that just because he had been trained to shoot and be shot at in Northern Ireland, it did not qualify him as the "killing guy".

He said: "If I had got the

slightest motive I'm going to be put in the frame for it."

Mr Wiggins told him he had more than just a slight motive but a "really deep-seated vengeance" for Mr Warren. Mr Marsh replied: "I would disagree with that entirely. It's in my favour to actually have the case because I will come out of it very well."

Earlier, John Morris, general secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, told the court that Mr Marsh effectively retired when he disclosed in *The Sun* that he had epilepsy. Mr Morris said that Mr Marsh had taken out a manager's licence in 1988 and had also become a co-promoter.

Mr Morris said: "Terry Marsh was an extremely courageous boxer. I have never seen anything other than exemplary behaviour from him. Everything about him has been to the credit of boxing."

The trial continues today.



Stepping out: The Prince of Wales returning to the public eye in London yesterday

By ALAN HAMILTON

The Prince returns with a firm public handshake

GLOWING blackly at the assembled media circus, the Prince of Wales yesterday stepped from his dark blue Bentley and greeted his first public handshake in 87 days. He looked slightly pained and ill-at-ease, as though concerned that the arm he broke in a fall from his polo pony on June 29 might have forgotten the art of flesh-pressing.

The early omens were not good. As the car drew up he sat in the back with his right hand slightly clenched, as though in pain. When his detective opened the door for him he steadied himself on it as though his legs might suddenly give way. But all was well; he gripped the proffered hand of the Rev John Chater, rector of St Marylebone church in central London, and gave it a peremptory pump with what can only be described as firm assurance.

"Dirty looks at the press were doubtless royal retribution for a story given prominence in less expensive newspapers this week that he had visited the chalice well at Glastonbury, Somerset, whose chalice-rich waters are said to cure evil, deafness, ulcers and blindness but not, apparently, the pain of a doubly-fractured arm.

The Prince's recovery is more due to Sarah Key, an Australian physiotherapist who has been coaxing him through a programme of exercise since his operation on September 1, and who has previously manipulated him for a bad back.

Pure coincidence, the Prince's press spokesman reiterated several times over, had dictated that

his first public visit since August 5 was to an NHS general practice in a church crypt which offered complementary medicine and counselling along with the standard pills. The Prince opened the centre in 1987 and is patron of its charitable trust, which raises money to provide homeopathy, acupuncture, massage, osteopathy and musical therapy.

The centre boasts that its annual drive bill is considerably less than that of the average NHS general practice, despite many of its 4,000 patients being disadvantaged. The Prince brought with him a group of Anglican clergy and Muslim community leaders from Yorkshire and Scotland to show them that such centres can be perfectly inter-denominational.

As he mounted the steps a reporter shouted "How are you, sir?" He glared somewhat. "If you really want to know, I'm barely alive," he retorted without much of a smile. His sense of humour appeared to have become slightly threadbare after six weeks of solitude at the Balmoral heather. In the church, the Prince and his

guests met doctors, priests and patients. When he emerged 90 minutes later, a woman in the crowd pressed a bunch of red and white carnations on him and congratulated him on his recovery. He seemed, at last, charmed. "I should be presenting them to you, not the other way round," he said. The woman turned out to be an Iraqi, a fact it was perhaps as well the Prince's detective did not know as he took the flowers.

From another section of the crowd Mrs Gladys Michael, aged 80, asked him how the arm was. "It's all right, but I think they put it on the wrong way round," the Prince replied cheerily. He then returned to Kensington Palace where he entertained the party of visiting clergy to lunch.

The Prince's public life now resumes in earnest, and next Friday he and the Princess leave for five days in Japan to attend the enthronement of Emperor Akihito. But despite his long absence from the public eye he has not been entirely idle. His sojourn at Balmoral has been occupied with large amounts of paperwork, receiving a stream of people from organisations he is connected with, and taking an ever-more active role in running the royal estates.

His staff knew he was on the mend when, several weeks ago, he picked up a rod and went fishing in the Dee. He who can cast a fly is ready to shake a hand.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Medical Briefing, page 20

Gospel of Toryism gets cool reception from clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE battle to win the moral high ground for the Conservative party seemed to take a turn for the worse yesterday when Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, addressed senior clergy in a debate at Southwark cathedral, London. After his defence of Conservative policies he sat down to a resounding silence. By contrast, John Smith, the shadow chancellor, was given rapturous applause.

Lord Harris of High Cross, the economist, said many in the audience, mainly clergy from Chelmsford, London and Southwark, were plainly hostile to Mr Lilley. "He sat down to silence. It was like Daniel in the lions' den."

Mr Lilley criticised socialist clergy who were out of tune with the aspirations of their congregation. He said capitalism could harness greed and selfishness arising out of the fall of man for the good of society, whereas socialists harnessed these defects for their own ends.

The debate, entitled "City of God?", followed the publication of *Christianity and Conservatism*, edited by Michael Allison, MP, and David Edwards, provost of Southwark. In the book's preface Margaret Thatcher says the intimate relationship between the Anglican church and the state was "profoundly creative in the advance to national consciousness". The prime minister argues that an historical turning-point has been reached for the nation, and Christianity is at risk of being "marginalised".

Mr Lilley, who attends St Peter's church, Vauxhall, in the Southwark diocese, said some ecclesiastics were reluctant to admit that free enterprise produced the goods and they said the free market only worked by "encouraging greed and selfishness" or by exploiting the poor. "I think both points do not stand close examination."

To argue that the free market only encouraged greed and selfishness was "very unbalanced and very unchristian", he said. Selfishness and greed dated from the fall of man and would "manifest itself in whatever form of society we organise". Mr Lilley quoted St Thomas Aquinas, who said that private property was necessary for human life, and the minister argued that the recent experience of socialist economies in the eastern bloc proved that selfishness was not limited to or produced by capitalism.

He criticised clergymen who were out of tune with their congregations. In one parish, a woman who wished to buy her council house had been worried by an article in the parish magazine that suggested this was wrong.

Mr Smith said: "Clergymen who I know speak very compellingly for their constituents with a deep understanding of the social problems they face. It is certainly my experience that the church is in touch with the people much more than the government is." The Rev Mark Davies, team vicar of St Peter's in Vauxhall said: "I do have a problem with government policy as it affects people in my area."

THE TIMES on Saturday

TIMES

Our magazine for young readers offers the chance to win a trip to Florida, including a visit to the *Ghostbusters* set. Plus an interview with Linford Christie

Review

Spender on Bernstein

Sir Stephen Spender recalls a car journey across America with the late Leonard Bernstein, an evocation of the conductor and of Fifties America

MacLaine, back on the boards

Shirley MacLaine talks about her return to the London stage and some remaining film ambitions

Plus...

Family feuding and the world's richest tycoon, the art of (Anthony) "burgessing", Lacey comes out of the underwear closet, growing up with Susan Fleetwood

£4m art theft is resolved

ONE of the largest art thefts in America has been resolved, with 14 of the 28 stolen paintings recovered (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). No arrests have been made, however, because one of the thieves has died and the rest have been jailed for other crimes.

The works, thought to be worth as much as \$8 million (£4.1 million), were stolen in 1988 from Colnaghi in Manhattan, sister to the Bond Street gallery in London. In a night raid, the thieves swung on ropes between two buildings and entered a skylight which did not have an alarm.

The police said the thieves became frightened when they learned of the haul's real value in newspaper and television reports. They pawned some of the works for \$50,000 and fled the country.

Father says the Iraqis killed defence expert

A BRITISH defence expert found hanged in a Chilean hotel could have been given drugged coffee, injected and murdered because of what he knew about an Iraqi arms deal, his father claimed yesterday.

Jonathan Moyle, aged 28, editor of *Defence Helicopter World*, was in Chile to report on an air show when his body was discovered in March this year. He was found hanged in his bedroom cupboard at his hotel in Santiago.

Mr Moyle told the inquest that

his son had said in a telephone call to his parents eight hours before he was found dead that he was inexplicably and dreadfully tired. "I am convinced he was sedated with his morning coffee and injected," Mr Moyle said, adding that the only way his strongly built son could have been put into a cupboard was if he had been overpowered. There was no sign of a struggle.

The Chilean post-mortem examination report spoke of strong sedatives being found in his stomach, but that was suppressed by the original Chilean investigation, Mr Moyle claimed.

At yesterday's inquest, Albert Hunt, a Home Office pathologist, presented his post-mortem report, which will go to Chile, where the death is being treated as murder. The inquest was adjourned for three months.

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Gummer tells milk industry to reform or face collapse

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S milk industry could be plunged into chaos if farmers and the dairy trade fail to agree soon changes that would allow them to compete effectively in a single European market after 1992, John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual lunch of the Dairy Trade Federation, Mr Gummer said the 57-year monopoly of the Milk Marketing Board was incapable of responding to future demands. "If we do not get the system right now, an increasingly competitive market will mean that imports will force change upon the industry not in an orderly way, but by damaging and random impact," he said.

The days when the average consumer bought a pint of milk each day from the milkman and was prepared to eat any type of cheese, provided it was cheddar, had long gone. The present milk marketing system reduced the rewards for innovation and the scope for developing localised speciality products.

Mr Gummer said any reform must not be cosmetic and must ensure greater competition, more open markets and greater choice for the consumers and producers.

For the past two years the Milk Marketing Board, representing 32,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales, and the Dairy Trade Federation, representing dairy companies and processors, have been arguing over how to change the cartel-like arrangements by which milk is traded.

By law, the board is the sole buyer of milk from its members. Only a small group of farmers with their own processing facilities are allowed to operate outside the system. The board then fixes the prices at which milk is sold to dairies in annual negotiations with the federation.

Critics say this has hampered innovation and regional variety and thus Britain's ability to compete against imports of yoghurts, specialist cheeses and other dairy products. Last summer, the board proposed turning itself into a voluntary co-operative, continuing to buy and collect milk from its members, but then putting it out to tender.

The federation yesterday put forward counter-proposals for the setting up of 30 regional producer co-operatives which could sell milk directly to local dairies. The board would be allowed to continue as a voluntary body, but after two years would not be permitted to buy and sell more than 25 per cent of all raw milk.



Evelyn Glennie, the deaf percussionist, teaches Julie Warren, aged ten, a deaf pupil from Lacock school, Islington, north London, to play the xylophone. Miss Glennie was taking a break from rehearsals for Saint-Saëns's *Carnaval des animaux*, to be performed at the Barbican, central London, tomorrow

Union's victory is masked by tea-break dispute

Britain's engineering workers are well on their way to winning a 35-hour week. But now the loss of a morning tea-break could deny their union complete success, Tim Jones reports

AN old-style dispute over tea-breaks at Rolls-Royce Industries, straight from the script of *I'm All Right, Jack*, the Boulton brothers' satire on the chaos and corruption practised by industrialists and union officials in the late 50s, is threatening to overshadow a profound and almost painless revolution on Britain's shop floors.

This week marks the anniversary of the campaign by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to reduce the working week from 39 to 35 hours and it is celebrated, as it began, with a decision by workers to go on strike if necessary to secure the aim.

More than 1,000 firms have so far agreed to give more than 500,000 workers a 37-hour week or less. The unions have now warned companies to expect a spring offensive to secure the 35-hour week.

The strategy has been simple and effective. In large companies such as British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce, workers at individual plants have voted to stop work after being assured their strike fund will be topped up by contributions from colleagues who continue to work.

That levy has so far amounted to more than £20 million, ensuring that those on strike can hold out almost indefinitely.

The most bitter manifestation of the campaign occurred at the BAe plant at Chester when the company was threatened with potential claims of more than £41 million from other partners in the consortium because a strike for a shorter working week was seriously threatening the European Airbus programme.

Yesterday workers at GPT plant in Liverpool are waiting to hear the management response to their claim before deciding whether to take strike action.

When the campaign began, Peter Brighton, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, warned that thousands of jobs would be at risk if the unions succeeded in having

their working week reduced by four hours.

Rolls-Royce was the first UK company to agree a standard working week of fewer than 39 hours when its NEI subsidiary concluded an agreement at its Parsons factory on Tyneside last November. But a dispute over morning tea-breaks is preventing the company from completing negotiations on a shorter working week for its 20,000 manual workers. Blue collar workers at its Levenside plant near Watford are protesting against the company's proposals to end the fixed time tea-break.

The company says the staff can have tea during the morning when work allows, but union officials claim that as they have already given up provision for free tea and a fixed break in the afternoon, the company is being too inflexible.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union said yesterday: "The campaign for the shorter working week in Britain has been the most successful trade union campaign since 1979."

One hundred jobs are to go in Luton with the closure of two engineering factories. Kent Process Control's Birmingham Park plant and ABB Robotics in Midland Road are being closed by their parent company Asea Brown Boveri.

The firm are shifting their operations to ABB factories in Milton Keynes and Stevenage, and 60 workers at Kent's, mainly in administration, are being made redundant with a further 100 staff having their jobs moved to Stevenage.

About half the 80 workers at ABB Robotics, which produces robots for car-makers and other industries, will lose their jobs when the factory merges with its sister company at Milton Keynes. The mergers are part of the Swedish/Swiss company's major shake-up of its UK operation.

Two weeks ago Pre-Star announced it was closing down its Luton operation with the possible loss of 160 jobs.



All out: shop steward Peter Sellers and his men in a scene from the film *I'm All Right, Jack*

Roads 'need £120m'

More than £120 million will have to be spent eliminating local road blackspots in the next three years if national casualty reduction targets are to be met, road safety organisations said yesterday (Michael Dwyer writes).

The money is needed for safety schemes including improved junction layouts, road humps, mini-roundabouts, central refuge and pedestrian crossings. The association of metropolitan authorities said that the political will was there locally but central government must provide the resources.

Libel award

Mark Nurthen, aged 32, a police sergeant who led an indecency raid on a joke shop in Covent Garden, central London, which sold chocolate sweets in obscene shapes, won £25,000 libel damages against *The People* yesterday for a report on the raid in which he was derided and defamed.

Cold comfort

The British Refrigeration Association said yesterday it would cost retailers at least £300 million to bring chilled display cabinets up to the standards required under hygiene regulations from April.

Deer hunt

Police are seeking a fully grown stag which brought traffic to a standstill as it galloped through Cheltenham town centre. The council's parks and recreation department said: "We are asking people to keep well clear if they see any deer in the town."

Weight limit

South Tees health authority is refusing to recruit nurses or porters who are 25 per cent overweight saying that they are more prone to injury when lifting and moving patients.

Man extradited

William Charles Taylor, aged 42, of Toronto, is to be extradited to Britain on charges of conspiring to smuggle arms to the Ulster Volunteer Force, a Protestant terrorist organisation in Northern Ireland.

Imbert improves

Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is improving slowly. Scotland Yard said yesterday. Sir Peter, aged 57, is still in intensive care after suffering a heart attack.

A clean sweep

Residents of Gwynedd, fed up that the council never cleaned the village streets, have done the job themselves and forwarded the £732 bill. Aberconwy borough council has, however, refused to pay, saying that it would create a precedent of paying for unauthorised work.

Flying colours

The 12,000 black and white barnacle Arctic geese which have arrived to winter at the Caerlaverock reserve in Dumfries & Galloway include breeding oddities - five completely white birds.

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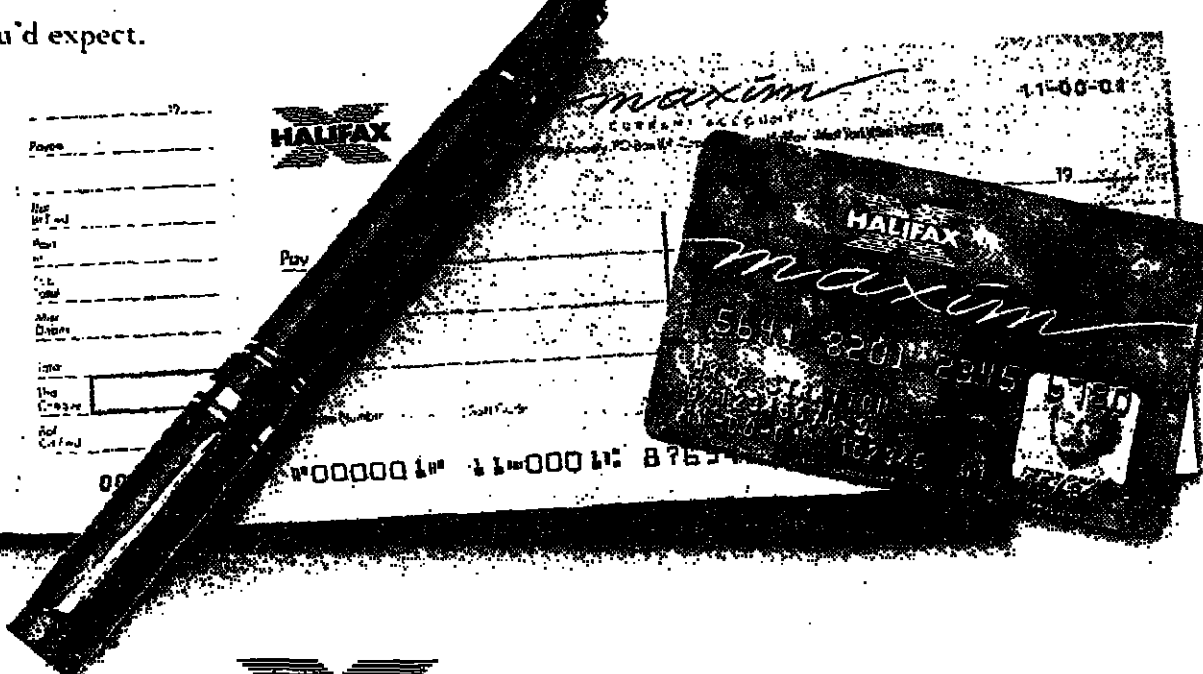
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Hunts flourish as call for ban is sounded again

The horn has been blown for a new hunting season and a million people will be involved in events until March. Michael Hornsby talks to enthusiasts and the sport's enemies

THE shires of England are again echoing to the sound of the chase after the opening of the fox-hunting season. In spite of decades of campaigning by anti-blood sports groups, sporadic violence by hunt saboteurs and the loss of hunting country to farming, urban sprawl and road building, the sport seems to be flourishing as never before.

There are 194 packs of foxhounds in England and Wales — more than in the Edwardian heyday of country life — and they take part in some 21,400 days of hunting every season, according to the Masters of Foxhounds Association. There are 48,000 hunt members and a further 400,000 people who regularly follow the hunt by car, on foot or on bicycle. "We reckon that over a whole season, up to a million people may be involved at one time or another if you include spectators and the thousands who turn out to watch such traditional events as the Boxing Day meet of the Quorn in Loughborough market place in Leicestershire," Brian Toon, for the association, says.

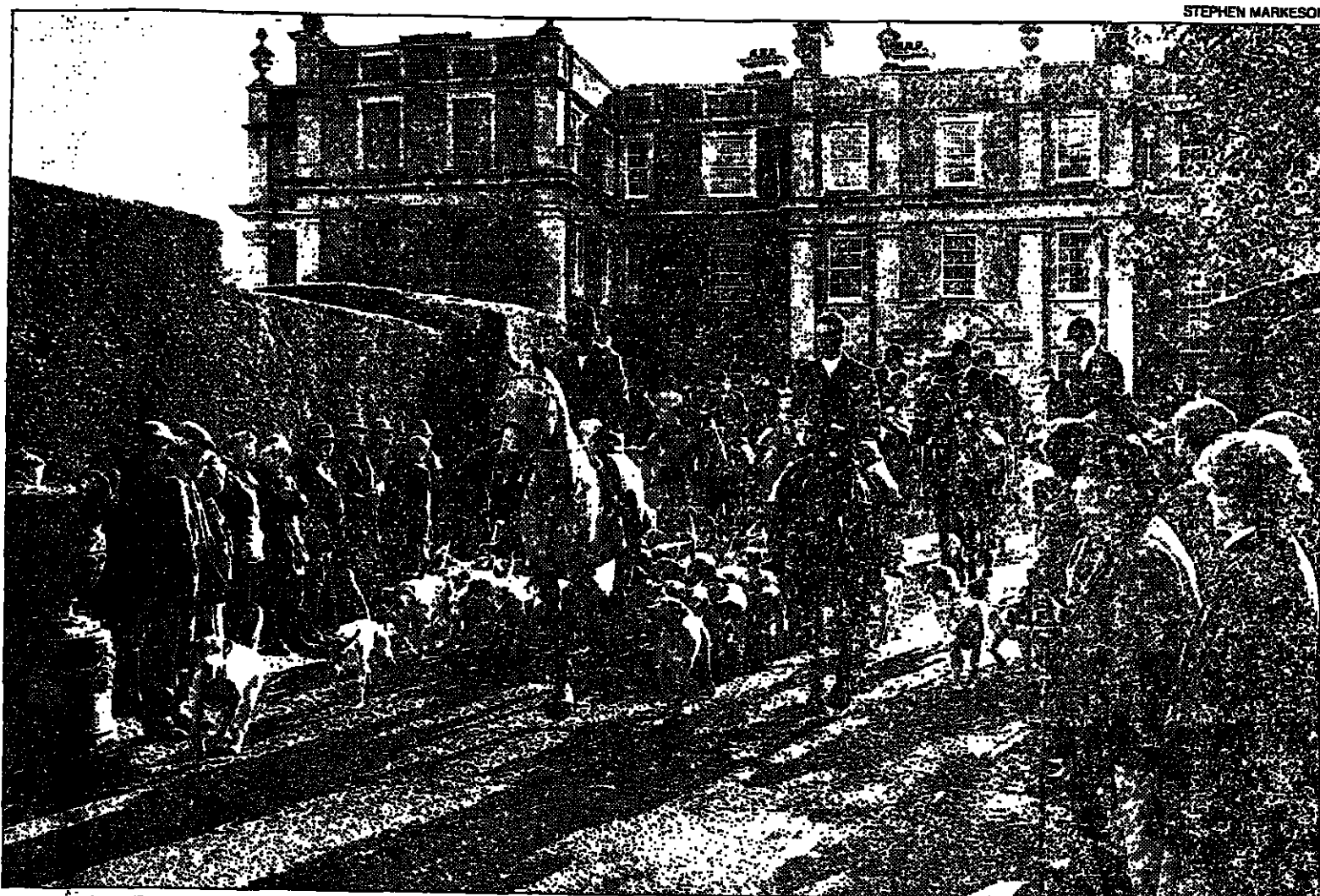
Jane Ridley, historian daughter of the former cabinet minister, Nicholas Ridley, attributes the growing numbers taking part in hunting to the move into the country of people with town-based incomes. "Subscription to one of the top hunts can run to £1,000 a year, not to speak of the cost of keeping horses," she said. "Yet most leading hunts

now have long waiting lists." Ms Ridley, who has just written a history of foxhunting and rides to hounds with the Jedforest, a Border pack, thinks risk-taking is an important part of the attraction. "Dressing up in quaint early Victorian costume is like putting on a uniform. It makes you feel braver. I have done things when hunting that I would never dream of doing in cold blood."

Yet as more people take part in foxhunting the pressure to get it banned is also growing. The start of this year's season coincides with the second attempt in two years to persuade members of the National Trust, who now number two million, to vote in favour of resolutions calling for bans on the hunting of foxes, hares, mink and deer on the 600,000 acres the trust owns.

The outcome of the mainly postal ballot will be announced at the trust's annual general meeting at Llandudno on Saturday. Few foxhunts are wholly dependent on use of trust land, and the legal terms on which some properties were donated to the trust stipulate that hunting should continue. So the impact of a vote in favour of a ban might well be more psychological than practical.

Conservative policy has been to treat participation in foxhunting as a matter for individual choice. There are, however, prominent opponents of hunting on the Tory benches. Dame Janet Footes, MP for Plymouth



They're off: the horses and the hounds, the sportsmen and the spectators lining up this week for the Hampshire Hunt at Preston Candover

Drake, who will be among those trust members voting for a ban, believes that the hunting of any animal with hounds should be prohibited. "The argument that hunting is part of the traditional way of life in the countryside and must be preserved does not wash. So were bear-baiting, cockfighting and many other extremely unpleasant rural pursuits."

Last month, the Labour

party, in its new document on environmental policy, declared the "organised hunting of foxes, deer, hares and other mammals for pleasure in ways which are sure to inflict pain and suffering" to be "unacceptable to the majority of people in Britain". A future Labour government would hold a free vote on the principle of a ban.

John Blakeway, senior joint-master of the Belvoir,

which hunts in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, says loss of hunting country to farming has been more of a problem than the activities of saboteurs and the anti-blood sports lobby. "I have been hunting for 50 years. Increased cereal growing since the second world war has reduced the length of the hunting season by about a month."

Hunt enthusiasts argue that the fox is a pest to

farmers and needs to be controlled, and that other methods, such as shooting, snaring and gassing, are more cruel than hunting. That argument is disputed by James Barrington, director of the League Against Cruel Sports. "Leaving aside the moral argument and the question of cruelty, hunting is a very ineffective form of control," he said. "Perhaps 10,000 to 12,000 foxes are killed in hunts each season.

Yet as many as 70,000 are killed on the roads. We also question claims by sheep farmers that without control foxes would increase in number and prey more heavily on lambs.

"In Scotland, where the government subsidises fox destruction clubs, Aberdeen University found that an estate which suspended fox control for three years suffered no increase in fox numbers."

Firearm licence charges criticised

POLICE forces are overcharging sportsmen and women for firearms certificates by inefficiently administering the licensing system, the country's largest shooting organisation said yesterday.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation is calling for fees for certificates to be cut to a maximum of £10 and licences to be extended on renewal from three years to at least 10 years. The demands are supported by the National Pistol Association and the National Rifle Association. Gun-owners pay £46 for both the grant and renewal of firearms certificates and £17 for a shotgun licence, which can be renewed for £11.

The 1988 Firearms Act introduced more stringent criteria governing the issuing of certificates after the Hungerford massacre.

A report commissioned by the British Association from the accountants Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, who studied six forces, estimated the costs incurred by the police ranged from £9 to £35, averaging out at £21.50. John Swift, the association's director, said: "Since the 1988 Firearms Act we have had numerous complaints from members relating to inconsistent and unnecessary policing causing increased costs. This is clearly inefficient. The firearms organisations have always maintained that since firearms licensing is for the benefit of the general public, it is only fair that some of the cost is met through the public purse."

The organisations plan to meet the police, Home Office officials and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, as well as submit the report to the government's firearms consultative committee, to demand a nationally consistent system.

Prison for cannabis smugglers

THE skipper and crew of a yacht were jailed yesterday for trying to smuggle cannabis worth £4.5 million into Britain. William Sullivan, aged 47, of Romford, Essex, the skipper of the yacht Rosy, was sentenced to ten years after admitting illegally importing cannabis.

His daughter, Jenni Sullivan, aged 23, of the same address and Pamela Frowl, aged 31, of Pennsylvania, were each jailed for seven years. William Elliott, aged 49, of Watford, Hertfordshire, was sentenced to nine years. All three had denied the charge.

Truro Crown Court had been told that the yacht was tracked through French and Spanish waters until it suffered engine trouble ten miles off Falmouth, Cornwall, last October. When the boat called for help a Customs launch offered it a tow to Falmouth, where one-and-a-half tons of Moroccan cannabis was found.

Broadcasters plan to charge for listings

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LEGISLATION aimed at breaking up the television listings duopoly could be undermined by plans to force national and regional newspapers to pay for the one-day and weekend TV schedules they now receive free, the Newspaper Society has said.

BBC Enterprises, which publishes *Radio Times* and has formed a syndication business to disseminate listings data on BBC, ITV, Channel 4, RSB and Sky programmes, has said it will charge for one-day and weekend information. The ITV Council is also considering a proposal from Independent Television Publishing, which publishes *TV Times*, that it act as the sole agent for the collection of seven-day, one-day and weekend fees from those publishing ITV and Channel 4 listings.

David Newell, head of government and legal affairs at the Newspaper Society, said: "It couldn't be the intention of those wanting the duopoly

broken up that local freesheets and regional evening newspapers be forced to pay for information they have always received free of charge. Many may choose not to publish TV listings at all."

He said that while the broadcasting bill had given all publications the right to publish a full TV listings service, it was just a theoretical right as "the pricing structure may make it impossible for many to compete."

The Newspaper Society is to meet BBC Enterprises and ITP in November to persuade them to drop the proposed one-day and weekend charges. If both refuse, it will appeal to the Copyright Tribunal.

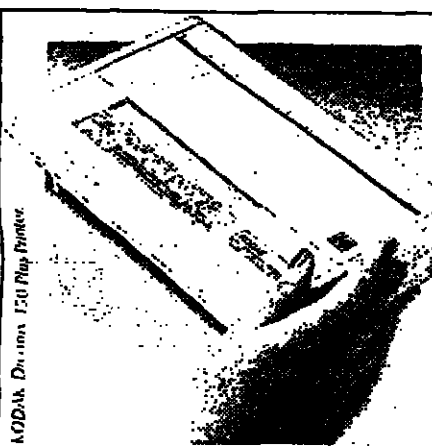
A confidential memo to ITV directors from George Cooper, of ITP, detailing the proposed new charges, has asked ITP companies to keep the ITP proposals secret.

The BBC and ITP will retain the copyright to TV listings until the end of 1992.

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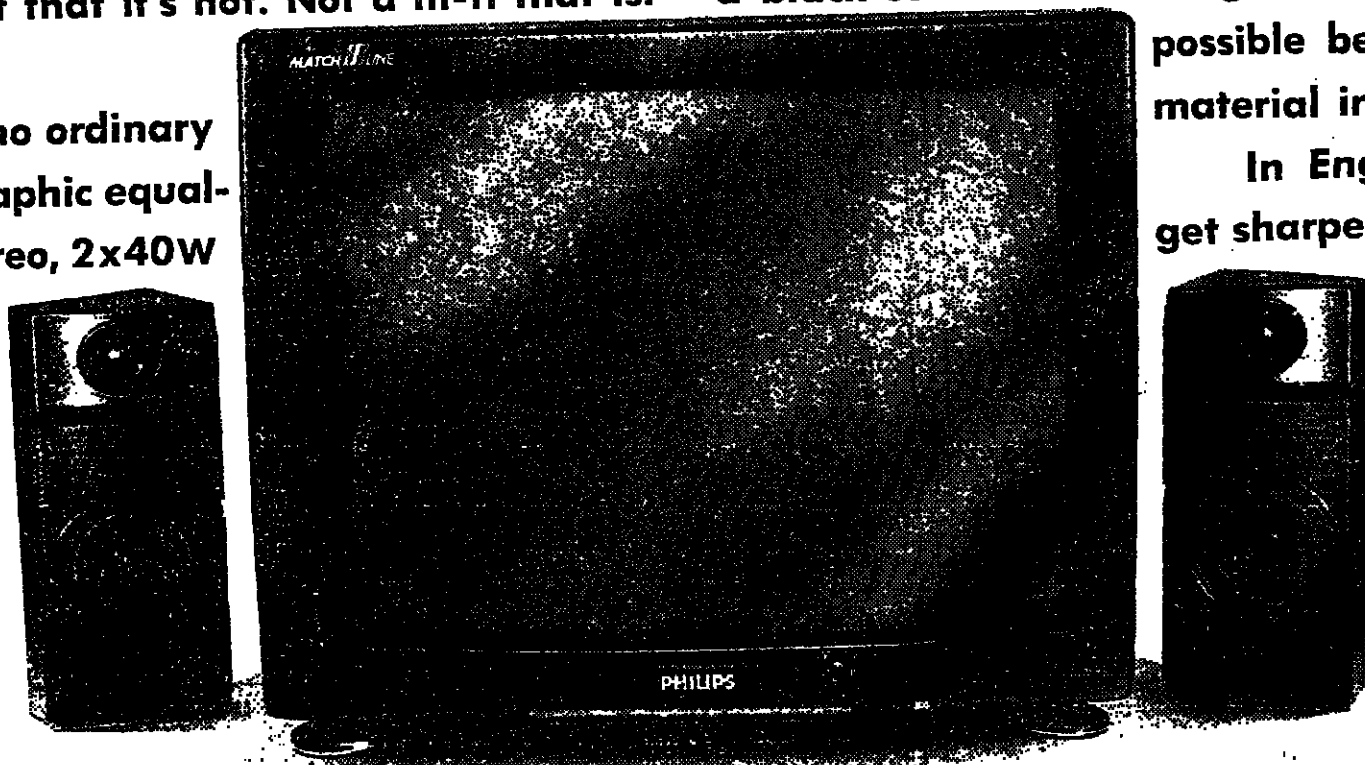
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MPs warn of cash shortfall as psychiatric units close

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to provide community care for mentally ill people discharged from hospital will cost at least £270 million over the next five years, according to an all party Commons report.

The social services select committee said that the sale of hospital sites will not raise enough money to provide alternative local services for the 12,500 patients now in psychiatric institutions who will be discharged in the next five years.

In addition, £30 million which the government has earmarked for the mentally ill next year will not meet even the social care expenses for the 27,000 mentally ill people already in the community who have made contact with psychiatric services, the report says.

Using figures from an evaluation by Kent university, the committee estimates that costs such as local authority day care, occupational therapy and community psychiatric services would cost £75 million a year for these 27,000.

The report says that these estimates did not even begin to cost the service requirements of people with a mental handicap. "However, they illustrate the level of commitment required in resource terms to achieve a small part of the government's community care reforms."

The report contains 32 recommendations to improve community care plans. It calls for an interdepartmental ministerial committee to oversee the policy to ensure that enough money is provided and urges the government to provide details on how the health department would ensure that no hospitals would

close before adequate alternative services were available. "We doubt that the sale of hospital sites in exchange for the development of new community services will make a major contribution to releasing the required resources for community care in the current financial climate," the report says.

The health department should publish details of which health authorities had sites for sale, where these sites were and which had attracted interest from developers.

The government, which has set up a £30 million capital loans fund to help districts build up community services before their psychiatric hospitals close, should provide additional bridging finance and subsidise sites of low value, the report says.

The committee was also concerned that local authorities will be expected to contribute 30 per cent to the £30 million mental illness grant next year and said that where local authorities found real difficulties, they should not have to pay. The government should fund this contribution instead to ensure that local services were not penalised, the committee says. The report also recommends that extra money be earmarked for the care of the elderly mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

Stephen Dorrell, junior health minister, said yesterday that there was overwhelming evidence that people were not pushed out of care to wander the streets. The whole purpose of the government's changes was to ensure that the number of homeless was kept to a minimum, he said on Radio 4's *World at One*.

Praise for superb chess duel as game ends with a draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE eighth game of the World Chess Championship in New York was declared drawn early yesterday after what some grandmasters have called one of the most superb duels in the championship's history.

The game, which lasted for ten hours over two days, had been a see-saw battle with first Gary Kasparov and then Anatoly Karpov taking the initiative. On the 84th move, Karpov, the challenger, offered a draw which Kasparov, the world champion, accepted.

The opening had once again been Kasparov's favourite Ruy Lopez variation and with it he built up a formidable attack against the black king.

Karpov, faced with enormous problems of defence, was also running into serious time pressure with only a few minutes to complete the first time control at move 40. But, although Kasparov held all the trumps, he seemed unable to land the decisive blow.

The game was adjourned on

move 40 with Karpov a pawn up and with every likelihood that he would win, taking a one-point lead after the first third of the 24 games.

When the game restarted, however, Kasparov played what will go down in the history of championship chess as one of the great defensive rear-guard actions. As Karpov saw his opportunities vanish, he once again faced serious time pressure. With just a minute left to make the four moves before the second time control at move 56, he missed a chance finally to demolish the white defences. On move 53, had he played Qf2, white's crumbling fortifications would have been swept away. Instead, he gave white the chance of a draw.

Kasparov succeeded first in lopping off black's extra pawn on the queen's wing while blockading black's powerful pawn on the d file which Karpov hoped to advance to become a queen.

Karpov's final error came with an injudicious pawn thrust on move 70. A queen attack then obliged Karpov to offer the exchange of queens, taking Kasparov out of danger. It had been a magnificent, if flawed struggle.

Kasparov white, Karpov black.

| | | | | | |
|----|------|-----|----|-----|------|
| 1 | e4 | e5 | d5 | d4 | c4 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nf6 | c4 | Kf7 | Re8 |
| 3 | Bb5 | a6 | 45 | Qg4 | Qd7 |
| 4 | Bxc6 | Nd5 | 46 | h3 | Re7+ |
| 5 | O-O | Re7 | 47 | Qd2 | Re4 |
| 6 | Re1 | Re7 | 48 | Qc3 | Re5 |
| 7 | Re3 | Re7 | 49 | Re3 | Re8 |
| 8 | c3 | O-O | 50 | Qd4 | Qe7 |
| 9 | h3 | Ne7 | 51 | Kf1 | Qb6 |
| 10 | h4 | Re6 | 52 | Qb4 | Qb6 |
| 11 | h4 | Re7 | 53 | Qb4 | Q4 |
| 12 | Re3 | Re5 | 54 | Rg3 | Qc7 |
| 13 | Re2 | Re4 | 55 | Re3 | Qc7+ |
| 14 | Re1 | Re5 | 56 | Kf2 | Q4+ |
| 15 | Re5 | Re5 | 57 | Kf1 | Qc7+ |
| 16 | Re5 | Re5 | 58 | Kf2 | Q4+ |
| 17 | Re5 | Re5 | 59 | Kf1 | Re8 |
| 18 | Re5 | Re5 | 60 | Kf1 | Re8 |
| 19 | Re5 | Re5 | 61 | Qb5 | Qc7+ |
| 20 | Re5 | Re5 | 62 | Kf1 | Q4 |
| 21 | Re5 | Re5 | 63 | Qc5 | Qd4 |
| 22 | Re5 | Re5 | 64 | Qc1 | Qb6 |
| 23 | Re5 | Re5 | 65 | Qc2 | Re7 |
| 24 | Re5 | Re5 | 66 | Qc2 | Re5 |
| 25 | Re5 | Re5 | 67 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 26 | Re5 | Re5 | 68 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 27 | Re5 | Re5 | 69 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 28 | Re5 | Re5 | 70 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 29 | Re5 | Re5 | 71 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 30 | Re5 | Re5 | 72 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 31 | Re5 | Re5 | 73 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 32 | Re5 | Re5 | 74 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 33 | Re5 | Re5 | 75 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 34 | Re5 | Re5 | 76 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 35 | Re5 | Re5 | 77 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 36 | Re5 | Re5 | 78 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 37 | Re5 | Re5 | 79 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 38 | Re5 | Re5 | 80 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 39 | Re5 | Re5 | 81 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 40 | Re5 | Re5 | 82 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 41 | Re5 | Re5 | 83 | Re7 | Re4 |
| 42 | Re5 | Re5 | 84 | Re7 | Re4 |

Draw agreed.

The position at the draw



"Love in the afternoon", left, and "Après ski", two hats from the collection by Philip Somerville to be launched today at Phillips Auctoniers in London. The 1991 spring and summer collection will be shown in conjunction with a preview of modern British paintings, to be auctioned by Phillips next week. The presentation of the hat collection will be Somerville's biggest show yet.

Rural groups clash over housing shortage

THE provision of affordable housing is the most serious problem in rural England, Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of the Rural Development Commission, said yesterday, a view dismissed immediately as complacent by a countryside pressure group (Nicholas Watt writes).

Speaking at the launch of the commission's annual report, Lord Shuttleworth

said government initiatives were not enough given the scale of the problem. The shortage of housing threatened the social balance in even the remotest areas. The commission, he said, could play an important advisory role and could significantly influence bodies such as the Housing Corporation, which had an annual budget of £1.6 billion.

Tony Burton, senior planner for the

Council for the Protection of Rural England, said, however, that the commission was helping to damage the countryside by supporting the government's exceptions policy, which allowed housing to be built on land on the edge of villages that would not normally be developed. "This means that we are asking the countryside to pay the price of the failure of housing policies."

Fears raised over flood of unsafe goods after 1992

By PETER VICTOR

THE single European market in 1992 could open Britain's doors to a flood of products that do not meet British standards and might be dangerous, according to *Which?*, the magazine of the Consumers' Association. The issue published today says that European rules allow goods sold legally in one member country to be sold in any other, unless there is a proven risk to health and safety.

The British Consumer Protection Act makes the sale of unsafe goods a criminal offence. The association says, however, that it will not prevent the sale of such goods after 1992 "because any product which complies with a European directive will be immune from prosecution."

Among the products the

association is concerned about are iron sole plates that melt. Irons manufactured in the UK since 1986 have been fitted with extra cut-outs to prevent melting but the European standard will not come into force until April 1993. The association has also expressed concern about pushchairs that fold up when the child is in them and flammable foam-filled furniture. Although both are covered by stringent UK standards, the same criteria do not necessarily apply throughout Europe.

Which? says the European process for drawing up standards is long-winded, but Britain does have some lessons to learn from Europe. Hot air guns in Europe come with heat-resistant flex and gas water heaters in The Netherlands have shut-off valves so that no gas can flow if the

flue is blocked. "Low fat" sausages are not necessarily much lower in fat than any other variety, according to *Which?* One brand tested contained as much fat as some standard sausages and the majority reduced the fat content by only about 50 per cent. The association says that this does not make them low-fat products as most sausages analysed were still about a quarter fat.

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Burglar alarms to be curbed

The government is to introduce mandatory controls to require burglar alarms to cut off after 20 minutes, David Trippier, the environment minister, told the Commons last night when he opened a debate on curbing noise.

He added that car alarms were supposed to cut off after five minutes but often did not and frequently went off accidentally. The government was seeking what could be done to improve matters.

Tighter controls had reduced vehicle noise, he said, and it should be possible to reduce further the noise from cars and lorries. The government was looking at the practicality of introducing metered noise testing of vehicles during the annual test or in roadside tests.

Personalised car plates

The sale of personalised H-registration number plates by the transport department has raised £5.6 million, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, said in a Commons written reply. About 11,000 motorists have chosen their numbers since the scheme started on October 1 and more than 200,000 three-letter combinations are still available.

Ashdown plea to City

The Liberal Democrats are seeking backing from the City of London. Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday that the City had a direct interest in ensuring that Britain was part of the European mainstream and that the prime minister's views were defeated. The party's job was to lead the pro-European voice.

£30m aid for development

A scheme to help small and medium-size companies to develop new products is to be launched next year. Douglas Hogg, the industry minister, told MPs that the government expected to provide £30 million for the scheme, to be called Spur, over three years.

Hansard at £6

The price of *Hansard*, the Commons official report, is to go up by £1, to £6 a day, John Maples, economic secretary, said in a written reply. The weekly version will rise by £3. The rises, from next week, are aimed at cutting estimated losses of £1.2 million next year.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30) and the Lords (9.30): Prorogation.



The way to do it: John Browne (Winchester, C) demonstrating technique yesterday at the Lords v Commons clay pigeon shoot at Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire, in aid of The Prince's Trust

Register scheme is killed

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE government won its battle against a compulsory dog registration scheme last night as peers voted by a narrow majority not to send the issue back to the Commons for a third time.

After a spirited debate, they decided by 158 votes to 139 against asking MPs to reconsider the matter after hearing Lady Blatch, the environment minister, dismiss the scheme as expensive and bureaucratic.

She said a dog register would soon contain details of thousands of dead animals and would quickly become defunct. Who, she asked, would register dead dogs found on the highway?

The debate was opened by Lord Stanley of Alderley, from the Conservative benches, who reminded the House how MPs had resisted the scheme by only three votes earlier this week.

He told them: "There is no constitutional reason whatsoever why you should not ask the House of Commons to think again."

"There is a very strong case for saying it is our duty as a revising chamber to do just that."

However, the scheme was derided by senior Tory peers, including Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, who described its registration fee as a "poll tax on dogs."

The House heard that disagreements on dog registration go back some way. Lord Jenkin of Roding, the former environment secretary, said that he had tried to bring in a dogs bill six years ago.

He said: "I actually got a policy approved for a registration scheme, but I failed dismally to persuade my colleagues to put it in the programme". He went on to vote against the government.

Big rise in dockers' redundancy cash attacked in report

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REDUNDANCY payments to dockers arising from the abolition of the dock labour scheme are expected to rise from an estimated £25 million to £135 million, according to a report yesterday that criticised the transport department for financial mismanagement.

In another report by the National Audit Office, the employment department was also rebuked for weak financial control that allowed as much as £3 million to be paid to people involved in training programmes when no training was being done.

A total of £90 million was paid in compensation to former registered dock workers in 1989-90 compared with an original transport department estimate of £10 million, a National Audit Office report of the 12 months since the dock labour scheme was abolished said. The big increase in payments was the result of a poor estimate by the department of the number of the 9,200 dockers on the scheme who would seek redundancy after it was abolished in July last year.

The government thought there would be between 1,500 and 2,000 redundancies, but by September this year three-fifths of dockers had opted to leave the scheme. The unforeseen level of redundancies meant that the government's original financial estimate for redundancies had to be increased to £90 million and, according to the report, the total compensation costs could reach £135 million.

The report said that the government had admitted that its estimate of £25 million in overall redundancy costs

was somewhere between an estimate and a guess. It said that within ten weeks of the scheme being abolished 3,756 of the registered dockers had applied for redundancy and at the end of last year, the beginning of this, redundancies were running at about a hundred a month.

Under the act abolishing the scheme, the government set up compensation arrangements aimed at removing the rigidities imposed by the 1947 scheme which restricted dock work at ports in the scheme to registered workers and registered employers. The compensation was also aimed at helping to reduce over-manning.

Last night, John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said that it had cost the nation millions of pounds to pay for the government's ideological obsession to get rid of the dock labour scheme. He

accused the port employers of "cunning" the taxpayer to pay for the ending of a scheme that had been replaced by cheap casual labour in the docks.

In a second report, the National Audit Office criticised the weak financial management of the employment department's employment training and youth training programmes. It said that the weakness in control was so serious that a more detailed examination was to be carried out.

The report showed that, of £1.4 billion paid in 1989-90 to managers and agents operating both training schemes, £55 million was not supported by proper audit evidence. "This does not necessarily mean that these amounts had been improperly paid; however, the absence of satisfactory evidence produces a degree of uncertainty about the propriety of the charges."

Efficiency study for 'quiet revolution'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

AN INVESTIGATION by the prime minister's efficiency unit was announced yesterday into the quiet revolution of Whitehall that is instilling business-like attitudes into the civil service.

It will focus on the effects on ministers and their departments of detaching nearly half Britain's 560,000 civil servants by next summer into free-standing executive agencies under the Next Steps initiative. Announcement of the study, to report next January, coincided with publication of the first annual report on the 34 agencies employing a total of 80,000 already set up.

A further 28 departments are candidates for agency status in what is predicted to be an enduring legacy of the Thatcher administrations, eradicating for ever the popular image of bureaucrats portrayed by *Mrs. Minister*.

Peter Kemp, the Next Steps project manager in the Cabinet Office, said yesterday that the reform of the civil service started more than two years ago by Margaret Thatcher had now gained credibility despite early resistance from civil servants and the Whitehall trade unions.

"There is no policy for abolishing the civil service. What we are getting is a more federal structure," he said.

David Mellor, the civil service minister, said that the reform is challenging the civil service to meet the needs of customers better.

Describing the "successes" of the new agencies, the report cites better services and cost controls at the Stationery Office.

Livelier palaces

THE Historic Royal Palaces became a Next Steps agency in October last year with the management of the Tower of London, Hampton Court, Banqueting House, Kensington and Kew palaces handed over to chief executive, David Beeton. He has an annual budget of £22 million and 350 staff. The original profit target of £3.8 million this year has been revised to £4.7 million.

Changes introduced include professional managers to run the shops and bureaux de change at the tourist attractions. In addition, visitors queuing to see the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London can watch videos of state

occasions with the Royal Family wearing the jewels. The videos have proved so popular that some visitors rejoin the back of the queue just to see the whole film.

A video at Hampton Court shows the fire damage and restoration work. The palace park was leased for a flower show, attracting an extra 100,000 visitors.

Improving Management in Government - The Next Steps Agencies (Stationery Office, £5.30) and *Progress in the Next Steps Initiative: Government reply to the eighth report of the Commons Treasury and civil service committee* (Stationery Office, £4.10).

Dead parrots fly off with a happy grin

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats can live with the jokes about dead and now twitching parrots. When your opponents feel the need to insult you, you are back in the game, and Paddy Ashdown's band of 20 are ending the parliamentary session with grins on their faces.

They had the best of the party conference session. They won Eastbourne. And their opinion poll standing is almost triple what it was in January. Today, Mr Ashdown and his colleagues will meet at the National Liberal Club for an all-day session to plan their election strategy.

Opening with a presentation from Des Wilson, their campaign director, Mr Ashdown will argue for the "Five Es": education, environment, electoral reform, Europe and the market economy to become the "Three plus two". Full participation in Europe and electoral reform, he will suggest, should be presented as the two essentials from which the necessary improvements on the others may be obtained. But tactically he will conclude that what is required for Liberal Democrat advance is for the anti-Tory tide to continue and for Labour to be seen not as a threat but as a plastic party incapable of making firm choices.

Leading Liberal Democrats believe that the Alliance suffered in 1987 because too many people became frightened of a Labour government and reverted to supporting the Tories to keep them out. So the Liberal Democrats will not be playing the reds under the beds card. Their tactical aim will be to present Labour as vacuous rather than threatening.

All the parties would like to know just what Eastbourne means in terms of third party revival. Before then today the Liberal Democrat MPs will have a study commissioned from the Oxford sociologist, Michael Hart, assessing the lessons of that by-election success.

Mr Hart's conclusion is interesting. His paper says: "Even if the Liberal Democrats

vote declines nationally at the next election, it could still increase in the seats where the party lies second to the Tories - particularly where it is clearly second and has a strong base in local government."

Mr Hart says that the near 19 per cent fall in the Tory vote at Eastbourne was more than in any by-election in the last Parliament except Becon and Radnor. He points out that the Eastbourne Liberal Democrats had consistently polled nearly as well as the Tories in local government. And he highlights the willingness of Labour voters in Eastbourne to transfer to the Liberal Democrats despite Labour's strong lead in national opinion polls. His research establishes that a practice evident in Scotland at the 1987 general election has now spread to England. Supporters of parties lying third in Tory seats have shown a greater propensity than at any time since 1945 to switch to the second-placed party in parliamentary by-elections. Looking at the 1987 results, Mr Hart finds:

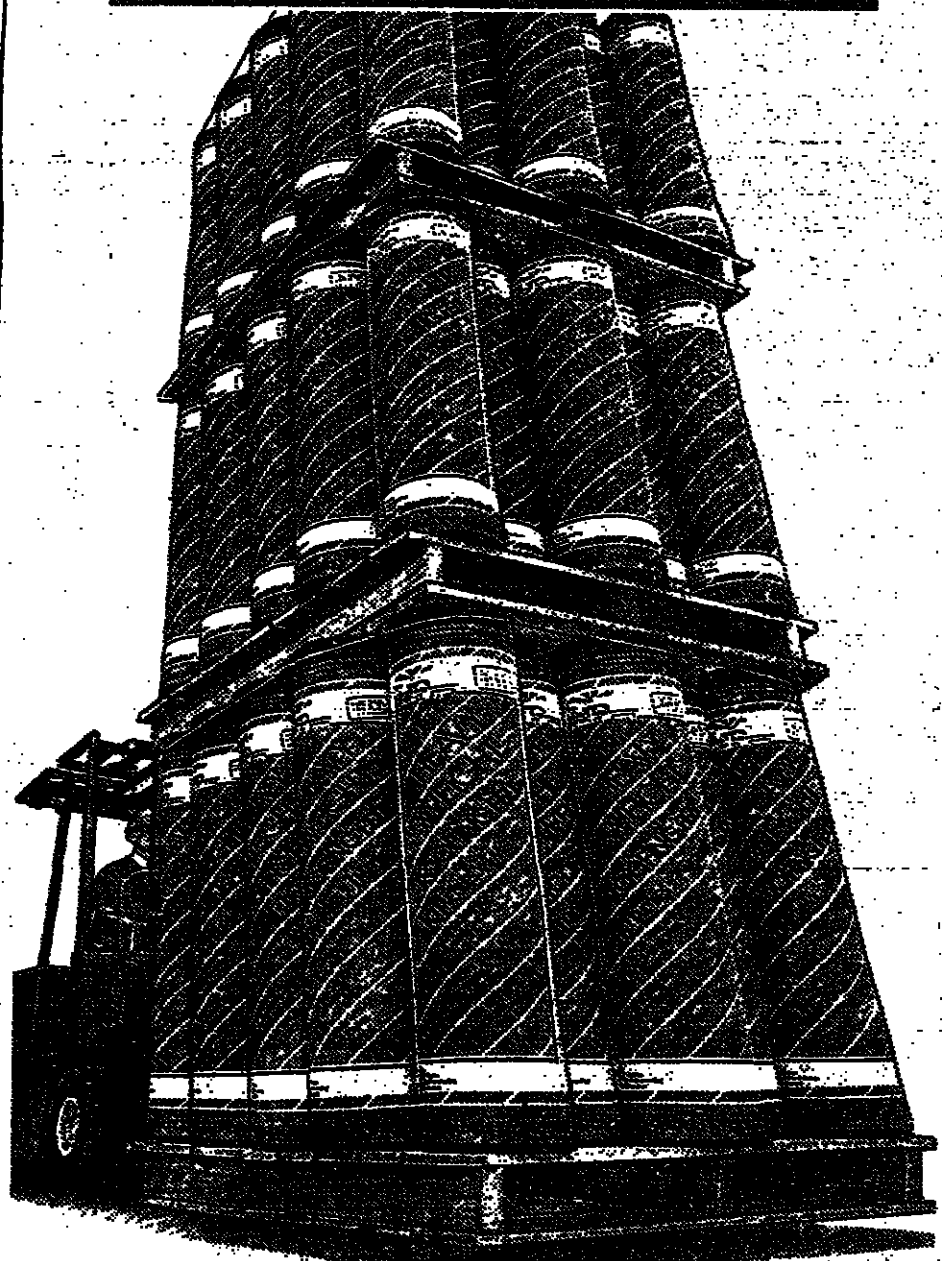
"There is a clear correlation between an increased 1987 second-placed Alliance vote and a declining third-placed Labour vote". Mr Hart has identified 18 seats which he says the Liberal Democrats can win at the next election even if their vote levels out at about 15 per cent nationally, with the implication that we shall see a significant increase in tactical voting at the next general election if the Liberal Democrats get their targeting right.

Kenneth Baker may be dancing a moderate jig at the possibility of a Liberal Democrat revival seeing Margaret Thatcher home by splitting the anti-Conservative vote as in 1983 and 1987, but it may not work that way. The Liberal Democrats could well be helping to dislodge Mrs Thatcher's majority, in the process building themselves enough influence to count for something in a hung Parliament.



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FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A group of Moldavian officials, including a deputy prime minister, Konstantin Oborok, and the co-chairman of the nationalist Popular Front organisation, Mikhail Gimpu, were said to have flown to the border by helicopter to negotiate an end to the blockade. Latest reports

When last week's elections in the south began, several thousand Moldavian volunteers mustered in the republic capital, Kishinev, and traveled in a fleet of buses to the edge of the Gagauz area in an attempt to halt the elections. Some had firearms, but most were armed with sticks, metal bars and other primitive weapons. According to witnesses, their mood was ugly and determined.

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

Mr Silayev's decision, which was formalised in a resolution, was passed almost unanimously at a special late sitting of the Russian Parliament last night. But the wording of the resolution and Mr Silayev's introduction gave little confidence that the Russian leadership was either ready or willing to proceed without the co-operation of the central Soviet government.

The wording of yesterday's resolution indicates that Mr Yeltsin's pledge to proceed with the "500 days" is little more than a gesture and that the Russian leadership has, in fact, chosen to follow the first of the three options outlined by Mr Yeltsin two weeks ago. That was to go along with the central programme, in so far as it did not conflict directly with the Russian programme.

The fact that the militants who stormed the border checkpoints yesterday were demanding the withdrawal of these troops suggests that they are under central, not republic, command, or at least that this is how they are perceived. This means that they could become the target of attacks from Moldavian and Gagauz nationalists.

The Moldavian communist party leadership yesterday broke its silence to express "serious concern" over the deteriorating situation in the republic and call for the return of all Moldavian volunteers.

**FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN**

The court had been asked to rule on the issue by the Christian Democrats, their Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union, and the state of Bavaria itself after the Social Democrat governments in both Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein decided to allow certain categories of foreigners to vote in local elections.

But the Constitutional Court decided that to enfranchise anyone who was not a German would run counter to the principle that the state is created by its own people. According to the court the word people does not include the totality of those who are concerned with the decisions of the executive power but only *Staatsvolk*, the people of the state itself.

Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein immediately declared the court ruling morally wrong and will press for amendments to the Basic Law. They argue that it is particularly undemocratic to deprive other European Community citizens of the right to vote.

MOSCOW NOTEBOOK by Mary Dejevsky

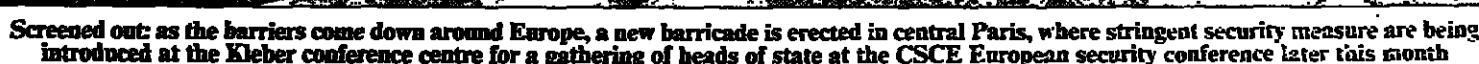
Psychotherapy may be above price in these dark days, but more mundane commodities are not. A few weeks ago the Moscow McDonald's hamburger restaurant—famous for having the largest waiting-time to eating-time ratio in the country—saw its prices and the queue has been halved. Researchers have long asked themselves whether the deprived Soviet consumer is price-sensitive; now they have their answer.

Psychotherapy may be above price in these dark days, but more mundane commodities are not. A few weeks ago the Moscow McDonald's hamburger restaurant — famous for having the largest waiting-time to eating-time ratio — doubled its prices and the queue has been halved. Researchers have long asked themselves whether the deprived Soviet consumer is price-sensitive; now they have their answer.

Some key bus routes have simply been cancelled. Scrappy notices tied to bus stops say: "In connection with the emergency measures to gather in the vegetable harvest, bus route No. X has been abolished." There are suspicions

that the word "abolished" means exactly that, and the vegetable harvest is merely a more popular way of saying "the fuel shortage", which is already causing long queues at petrol stations and flight cancellations.

The nationwide preoccupation with potatoes this autumn has spawned a new joke: What would happen, it asks, if the Warsaw Pact were crossed with Nato? The answer, uttered without malice and with just a sliver of hope, is: the Bundeswehr would organise the Moscow potato harvest.



FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

With his eloquence and sense of destiny, Mr. Cuomo, now aged 58, is seen by many outside New York state as the "UnBUSH," a leader above politics and, above all, one who has the "vision thing." Until the past couple of months, however, wisdom held that the governor would be wasting his time in a race against a popular incumbent

Since then political junkies have looked to Albany, the state capital, whenever they have needed a counterpoint to the cant and compromises of

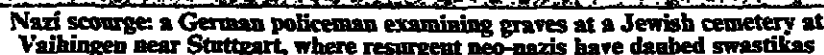
This time Mr Cuomo looks as if he may decide to throw his hat into the ring. Although he is guaranteed re-election to his governor's seat, he has been campaigning with corrosive attacks on the Bush administration. With the righteous fury of a vindicated prophet, he has been expounding on the profligacy of the 1980s. America is fighting for survival, he says. "Between Iraq and a hard place, I don't see a solution, but I think there are some things you'd better do," he said recently.

Cuomo supporters see his background as a surmountable obstacle once the south and west glimpse his strength of character. As Robert Strauss, the former national

There are many snags to the Mark 2 Mario Scenario, stemming from what critics see as arrogance and aloofness. And then there is the big question of his record. Captivated by his candour and intelligence, the national media have so far exempted his eight years as governor from the usual scrutiny. He has repeatedly vetoed the return of capital punishment at a time when crime is at an historic high and, to the fury of the Catholic Church, to which he belongs, having been Jesuit-trained, he has supported abortion rights.

But, overall, his actions have proved more cautious than his rhetoric, and he is now coming under fire for failing to stem the slide of the state economy.

Nevertheless, at present reckoning, Mr Cuomo looks well placed for a crack at following in the footsteps of that last New York governor to reach the White House, Franklin D. Roosevelt.



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BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BY NOV. 11

Egypt rejects Gorbachev's call for Arab Gulf summit

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

EGYPT, clearly suspicious of Soviet motives, yesterday rejected a call by President Gorbachev for an emergency Arab summit on the Gulf, which it said would only lead to a showdown between Arab leaders.

Responding to fears that war might be closer, President Mubarak sent his foreign minister to Jeddah for urgent talks with the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia, the other key players in the Arab anti-Iraq alliance. Jordan's tireless King Hussein, meanwhile, flew to Oman for what was billed as a new peace drive.

President Mubarak said the recent second round of Middle East shuttle diplomacy by the Soviet special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, had produced no clear results and that, without anything specific to discuss, an Arab summit would degenerate into a showdown between those leaders who support Iraq and those who are opposed to it.

"If we are going to call an Arab summit while there is no clear vision, it will be a summit of insults," he told reporters. "We would like to ask if the Soviet envoy managed to reach something definite so that we can hold an Arab summit to discuss something specific. We have not been told of it."

Similar fears were expressed in the leading Syrian newspaper, *Tishreen*. The summit call, it said, "is only an attempt to prolong the crisis and clear the way for the only remaining solution, the military option, which is a devastating

option that will only bring catastrophe to the Arabs."

The Soviet leader said there was a slight change in Iraq's position following Mr Primakov's trip to Baghdad, and on Monday called for an inter-Arab meeting as the best way of ending the Gulf confrontation. The official Soviet news agency said Mr Primakov had left Iraq empty-handed.

A leading Egyptian newspaper spoke openly about its suspicions of the Soviet stand. Ibrahim Nafiseh, editor of *Al-Ahram*, who is a confidant of President Mubarak, said Moscow's call for an Arab summit was an attempt to disguise Mr Primakov's diplomatic failure and "serve Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's strategy of stalling in the belief that time is on his side."

He added: "Can an Arab summit meeting achieve what the whole world has failed to do? Or does the Soviet Union want the Arab summit to give false legitimacy to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait? And does the Soviet Union want us to pressure Kuwait to give up part of its territories?"

This fear was one of several believed to have prompted the sudden and unannounced meeting yesterday in Jeddah of the Egyptian, Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers whose countries spearhead the Arab military build-up in the Gulf.

All three are concerned that Iraq may be driving a wedge between permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, with the United States and Britain taking a tough and uncompromising stand and the Soviet Union and France raising vague possibilities of a compromise solution.

The foreign ministers were also expected to discuss the growing rift in the Arab world and the possible divisions between their governments and peoples if war breaks out in the Gulf.

A sudden spate of attacks on the United States in the Syrian media during the past week, the first since Damascus agreed to despatch troops to the Gulf in August, were seen as intended for domestic consumption. Western diplomats believe 80 per cent of Syrians sympathise with Iraq. Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are keen to see the power of President Saddam neutralised but fear war as much as his survival. Their foreign ministers were expected to work on a common action plan.

Adopting a more conciliatory tone to Baghdad than he has used in recent weeks, President Mubarak said he was willing to help Iraq in negotiations about its claims with Kuwait, but only after it withdrew from the emirate.

King Hussein of Jordan, who has the most to lose from a war in the Gulf, embarked on another round of diplomacy yesterday, leaving for two days of talks in Muscat with Sultan Qaboos of Oman, who is the current chairman of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, a body that would play a key role in any settlement.

Leading article, page 15

'European terror union' uncovered

Amsterdam — Dutch extremists have forged links with foreign terror groups to create a "West European revolutionary front" aimed at sabotaging preparations for European union in 1992, according to a secret report by the Central Criminal Intelligence Unit (Mark Fuller writes).

The study, leaked to *De Telegraaf* here, suspects that "anti-imperialist" from squatter and anti-apartheid groups, are co-ordinating plans with the IRA, Eta in Spain, and the German Red Army Faction. The police have evidence that three IRA suspects — who will go on trial here at the end of November in connection with the murder of two Australians — set up a base in The Hague with the help of a Dutch student.

Detroit fire spree

Detroit — Firefighters were out throughout this city battling random fires started by arsonists on Devil's Night, the city's annual fire spree on the eve of Halloween. However, about 35,000 volunteers patrolled the streets and police said the number of arrests was down on last year. (AFP)

Sentence upheld

Paris — The Appeal Court here upheld a 20-year sentence on Tunisian-born Fouad Saleh, aged 32, convicted in connection with a wave of bombings in the French capital in 1985 and 1986 that killed 13 people and wounded more than 250. The court also confirmed verdicts against several of his accomplices. (AFP)

Satellite found

Washington — An American spy satellite that was believed to have suffered catastrophic failure and broken apart soon after its launch in March has been spotted 503 miles high by amateur astronomers. It apparently has been there all along, said one, who determined it was the secret payload put into orbit from the space shuttle Atlantis on March 1. (AP)

Liberia looting

Abidjan — Looting by remnants of former president Samuel Doe's army has stopped food distribution in war-ravaged Monrovia, where people are dying of starvation, say relief workers. They added that the soldiers were roaming the Liberian capital again after starting to co-operate with a West African task force sent to stop the war. (AFP)

Moi attacks BBC

Nairobi — President Moi of Kenya lambasted the BBC for what he described as lies and hostility against the country. He was quoted as expressing concern over "hostility shown to Kenya by the BBC". A BBC spokesman said that any complaints against particular reports would be considered. (Reuters)

Dissident freed

Peking — Wang Ruowang, a dissident Chinese writer jailed after the June 1989 repression of dissent, has been released in Shanghai, a government official said. The writer, aged 72, was awaiting resolution of his case, the official added. (Reuters)



Dry run: Israeli conscripts of the elite Givati Brigade making a practice beach landing on the Mediterranean coast near Ashdod yesterday in a manoeuvre near the end of their training

'Gucci kingdom' on its knees as sanctions take heavy toll

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

JORDAN, once referred to as "the Gucci kingdom" because of the conspicuous consumption of the richer of its 3.4 million inhabitants, has been brought economically to its knees by the first three months of the Gulf confrontation.

Although Germany, Japan and the United States have pledged aid, government officials claimed yesterday that so far not a penny has been paid. Foreign reserves are close to zero and Basil Jaradneh, the finance minister, has said that if help is not received soon it will be impossible to convince a sceptical public of the continued need for imposing sanctions against Iraq.

To the undisguised fury of many Palestinians, 60 per cent of the population, these are now being scrupulously adhered to in every area except oil, 40,000 barrels a day of which are still being imported from Iraq.

The road north to the Iraqi border from Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, once carrying 50 sanctions-breaking lorries an hour, is now empty of commercial traffic

except for the tankers and the occasional lorry bringing back the belongings of one of the 100,000 Jordanian expatriates who have returned from Iraq or Kuwait.

Alternate street lights along the desert highway are now switched off as part of energy-saving measures introduced after Saudi Arabia cut oil supplies to punish Jordan for its pro-Iraqi stance.

In Amman, shops and all other commercial establishments, with the exception of pharmacies, bakeries, clinics and petrol stations, now close early on government orders. The official weekend has been extended to take in Thursday and Friday, and during the week places of entertainment must close and all neon signs be turned off in the early evening.

"As winter and probably war approaches, there is a psychological feeling of gloom which is matched by the darkness in the street," said one Palestinian shopkeeper, a strong supporter of President Saddam Hussein whose portrait, with those of King Hussein and Yasser Arafat, adorns

his window, as it does many buildings in Jordan.

No area of daily life remains unaffected by the conflict. "We are drifting towards disaster," the king said recently. Friends say he has grown more depressed as chances of a settlement slip away.

A United Nations envoy estimated that the conflict could cost Jordan \$4 billion (£2 billion) by the end of 1991. Unemployment is expected to double from its present level of 20 per cent.

Mr Jaradneh said that if financial aid did not arrive quickly it would be hard to keep supplying "basic human needs". There are real fears that resentment could spill on to the streets.

Recent visitors to Baghdad claim that with the end of petrol rationing there, sanctions are now hitting Jordan harder than Iraq. The US State Department, increasingly impatient with what it regards as the king's position on the fence, is unsympathetic. "Shut it all down (trade with Iraq) and the aid will come fairly quickly," a spokesman said in Washington.

Israel fears Syria is weak link in anti-Iraq alliance

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday claimed that cracks were appearing in the coalition against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq just as hostilities in the Gulf appeared to be more likely, if not imminent. Officials identified Syria as the "weak link". They said that, in spite of that country's obvious gains from participation in the anti-Iraq alliance, including "a relatively free hand in Lebanon", there had been indications from Damascus that, if Israel were involved in hostilities, President Assad would put aside his hatred of President Saddam and align himself with Baghdad after all.

General Amos Gilboa, a former senior officer in Israeli military intelligence, said Israel had monitored a distinct sharpening of anti-American and anti-Israeli rhetoric in Damascus over the past few days. Syrian officials had stated clearly that Syria would have no choice but to side with Iraq if an Iraqi-Israeli front opened up.

"In any case, I more than doubt whether either Syria or Egypt would take part in any offensive action in Kuwait," General Gilboa told a press briefing. "The most they would do is take up defensive positions in Saudi Arabia." He said President Assad was dragging his feet over his promise to President Bush to send a Syrian armoured brigade to Saudi Arabia. Tank crews were beginning to leave Syria for the Gulf, but their tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery had so far remained in Syria. Damascus had dispatched only "two to three commando battalions".

Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office and a leading Israeli expert on the Arab world, said Saudi Arabia, the exiled government of Kuwait and the Western nations had made a huge error in providing Syria with money as a "reward" for its participation in the anti-Iraq coalition. He put the total funds so far made available to Syria at \$3 billion (£1.5 billion).

"Syria would have joined the coalition in any case, for its own reasons," Mr Olmert said. "Giving it large amounts of money has only enabled Syria to buy weapons it could no longer afford because of the withdrawal of Soviet military support. We are in danger of creating a new Middle East monster so soon after creating the monster of Saddam Hussein. This is very short-sighted."

Diplomats said Israel clearly feared that the determination of the US to preserve its anti-Saddam coalition at all costs would in the long term lead to a pro-Arab tilt in Washington and a devaluation of the traditional American alliance with Israel. Israeli officials habitually refer, with ill-disguised contempt, to the "so-called anti-Iraq coalition".

General Gilboa said Syria had repeatedly made it clear that, despite the anti-Baghdad coalition and the loss of Soviet support for Damascus, it was not turning into an American ally. Syria was not interested in a formal peace with Israel, with the Israeli flag flying in Damascus as it now did in Cairo. Instead, President Assad wanted the return of the Golan Heights and, at best, a state of "non-belligerence" with Israel. Syria remained an aggressive, radical

and "anti-imperialist" Arab state, he said.

But the United States had been willing to overlook such realities because of its overwhelming desire to keep Syria in the coalition. General Gilboa added, Syria's reputation as the most nationalist of Arab states gave the coalition "an Arabic colouring" that it would lack if Damascus withdrew. Asked why President Assad would risk the gains he had so far won by questioning or undermining the alliance, General Gilboa and Mr Olmert said the Syrian leader might fear that Mr Bush was hesitant about going to war and "needed a push".

The Syrian nightmare was that the United States would fail to act and President Saddam would emerge triumphant, leaving Damascus at the mercy of the Iraqi dictator economically, politically and even militarily.

Officials said Syria's gains so far included not only aid for its faltering economy but the ability to operate with impunity in Lebanon with tacit US approval. A further gain was the re-emergence of President Assad as an important player on the Middle East stage.

Hopes rise as militias agree to quit Beirut

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

LEBANON'S warring militias, which have controlled the country for the past 15 years, have buckled to Syrian pressure and agreed to pull out of Beirut, leaving the army in control of the capital and allowing the government to implement the first stage of last year's Arab League peace plan.

In a related development, two rival Shia militias, the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, agreed to end their bloody three-year conflict, which has claimed more than 1,000 lives, with a peace settlement sponsored by Damascus and Tehran.

After intensive talks at Syrian army headquarters late on Tuesday, leaders of the two militias agreed to exchange prisoners and lift blockades against villages in southern Lebanon. Many ceasefire agreements between the two militias have collapsed but there was confidence the latest would hold because of the Syrian and Iranian commitment.

The Lebanese Forces, a Christian militia which was stronger and better equipped than the Lebanese army, was the latest to announce it would withdraw from Beirut, and all the powerful militias have agreed to leave the capital.

Hussien Hussein, the parliamentary speaker, told *Al-Khaleej*, a newspaper in Sharjah: "We are on the doorstep of a final breakthrough. The green light to solve the crisis has been given."

Moves to implement the Arab League plan followed the Syrian-backed removal of Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader, nearly three weeks ago. It is believed that Washington tacitly approved the move after Damascus sent troops to join the US-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

The security plan for greater Beirut is seen as the first step to extending government control over the whole of Lebanon. The Syrian-backed government of President Hafez al-Assad hopes to absorb many of the fighters from the various militias into a new national army while their leaders may be given posts in a cabinet of national reconciliation. "No weapons will remain, but that of the legal authority. All the armed groups will be disbanded," Albert Mansour, the defence minister, said.

However, none of the most powerful militias has agreed to disarm or disband and many Lebanese believe peace might stop at the gates of greater Beirut. After 15 years of civil war, sectarian rivalries run deep and many old scores remain to be settled.

UN move links Kuwait with Palestinian issue

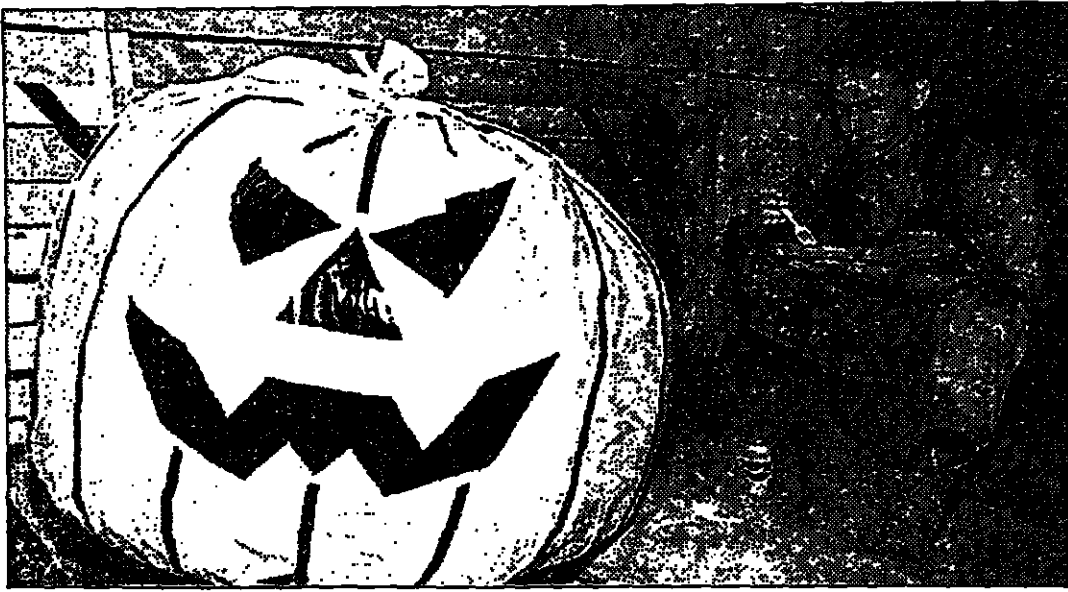
BY ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DESPITE the best efforts of Britain and the United States to avoid it, the wording of the latest United Nations resolution on Kuwait has inadvertently reinforced parallels with the Arab-Israeli conflict in the occupied territories.

Resolution 674, passed by the security council on Monday, invites countries to compile information on grave breaches of international law governing the rights of civilians under occupation. The resolution will lead to the drawing up of a list of human rights abuses by Iraqis against Kuwaitis and others and could at some future time result in legal action against those responsible. The resolution is based partly

on the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which imposed on occupying powers a duty to protect civilians. Individual Iraqis could be prosecuted in courts of any country which has signed the convention.

Most nations have always recognised that the Geneva convention applies to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, but security council resolutions on that conflict have taken a less systematic approach to alleged human rights violations. Britain and America regard abuses in Kuwait as being far graver than those in the occupied territories, but Palestinian sources believe their sufferings have been undervalued.



Home comforts: US airman Kurtis Crawford tucking into barbecued chicken beside a plastic pumpkin during a Halloween party for troops in eastern Saudi Arabia as Iraq went on alert

UN promises justice for all when the dust of battle clears

By MARC WELLER

TO THE victor the spoils is the maxim that has controlled the outcome of wars for centuries. It has generally been associated with unjust peace settlements giving rise to resentment, national outrage and more war. Against this background Britain's proposal to serve notice on Iraq that it will be required to pay reparations for its aggression against Kuwait had a mixed response at the United Nations.

Britain was successful, however, in including a significant paragraph concerning reparations in the latest resolution on the Gulf crisis which allows full redress for Kuwait and third countries, and for companies and individuals who have suffered as a result of the invasion.

The idea of holding Iraq responsible for the outrages it is committing against Kuwait, its citizens and foreign companies and nationals is aimed at convincing Baghdad that further destruction

and looting in Kuwait does not make sense, since Iraq will in the end have to pay.

The case for reparations can also stand on its own in terms of law. The security council has determined unanimously that a breach of the peace has taken place, that it was committed by Iraq, and that it must be reversed. This departs from the maxim since, this time, a neutral body with supreme jurisdiction over matters of peace and security has made the decision of who is the guilty party.

The obligation to pay reparations for the unlawful use of force is well established. In 1949 the International Court of Justice awarded £843,947 to Britain after it found that Albania had been responsible for the loss of life and damage to two British destroyers which struck mines in the Corfu Channel. More recently, in 1986, the World Court affirmed that "the United States of America is under an obligation to make reparations for all injury caused to

Nicaragua" when it condemned Washington's military and paramilitary activities against that country.

Ironically, when Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981, Baghdad was considered by the security council "entitled to appropriate redress for the destruction it has suffered".

Kuwaiti embassies abroad have encouraged their nationals to collect evidence of any damage. Britain, too, has urged its nationals and companies to register claims with the Foreign Office.

London has been trying to tempt the neutral and non-aligned nations, which are reluctant to support "punitive" measures against Iraq, to support the principle of reparations by making them the main beneficiary of a possible compensation package, and some have been reluctant to have started calculating the damages they have incurred through the oil-price rise and loss of trade with Baghdad.

These exercises in arithmetic

may well have an air of unreality. Exhausted by the bloody conflict with Iran, it was Baghdad which demanded a suspension of the repayment of its war debts to Kuwait and other Gulf states before it began hostilities in a fairly desperate gamble. Economic sanctions will have dealt the death blow to the Iraqi economy, and Baghdad has only limited assets abroad which could be used to satisfy claims.

The large variety of possible claimants would make this a very complicated case indeed. The US-Iran claims tribunal, which was set up to satisfy claims arising out of the turmoil in Iran from 1979 onwards, is still sitting in The Hague, and its purview has been limited by comparison.

Nevertheless, the tribunals set up after the world wars demonstrated that the task is not impossible. Since the countries which are suffering disproportionate hardship as a result of the sanctions against Iraq can already apply to the security council for

assistance, their requirements could be assessed fairly easily.

Individual claims could be evaluated by their national governments which would then put forward a demand for a lump-sum settlement, or there could be arbitration tribunals. Iraq would be required to make payments into a fund from which the awards of such tribunals would be satisfied.

However, should President Saddam Hussein reverse the aggression, it is uncertain whether the international community would have the will to keep sanctions in place until Baghdad also agrees to pay reparations. On the other hand, a military victory in Kuwait would probably lead to the establishment of a new political structure in Baghdad, and it would be the Iraqi population, and not its corrupt regime, which would be presented with a very large bill likely to cripple the economy for decades.

The demand for reparations would also give rise to the

allegation of hypocrisy. Damages on the scale contemplated have not been paid since the second world war, and there might have been several suitable candidates, including both superpowers, who were involved in a number of dirty wars, such as those in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

But the idea of reparations has too much to commend it to be rejected on the basis of such objections. It is precisely the fact that we are now, hopefully, witnessing the inauguration of a new age of collective security which would demand that compensation be paid in cases of aggression. Such a precedent would be an important constitutional block of the new order: the international community would demonstrate that aggression does not pay.

Marc Weller is a research fellow at the University Research Centre for International Law and at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he is also a lecturer.

Shadow of violence hangs over troubled Indian communities

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KARNAIL GANJ

HINDU and Muslim market traders in the village of Karnail Ganj returned uneasily to their stalls yesterday in the wake of Tuesday's disturbances and deaths around the disputed Ayodhya mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. As they went about their business of selling locally grown vegetables in stiff silence, large numbers of police with rifles watched over them, so explosive was the atmosphere.

This is now the state of affairs in every town and hamlet where Hindus and Muslims live together in northern India. Not since independence has there been greater uncertainty or fear.

Police checkpoints block both ends of the narrow main road in the village. Vijai Srivastava, deputy superintendent of police for the district, is stabbing with his lathi (bamboo cane) at the

bare feet of a dhoti-clad Hindu youth, who cries out in pain. "He has been spreading false rumours about atrocities committed by Muslims," the policeman said. "We must crush such people."

The youth, a fish seller from a nearby village, said he made up the stories because he got drunk. He obviously knew he was in for a police thrashing: he cringed and bowed in supplication. The tiny cells of the local police station are already jammed full, so at least he would be freed after his beating.

Mr Srivastava said his job had become extremely difficult. Tension was high after thousands of Hindu militants stormed the disputed mosque in Ayodhya, 50 miles away.

"This dispute (over the mosque) has some impact, but it is not the main cause of tension," he said. "The main reason is an atmosphere of

intolerance among the young, whether Hindus or Muslims. If one person throws a stone, there is a riot. I believe strongly that unemployment is at the root of it all. I cannot accept that Hindus and Muslims hate each other."

The farming community of Karnail Ganj, whose population of 20,000 is divided almost equally between Hindus and Muslims, exploded in communal violence on September 30 for the first time. Hundreds of burnt-out houses, shops and buildings stand as testimony to three days of fighting. Local Muslim leaders put the death toll at 99, but the police say it was 43.

It is small places like Karnail Ganj, which brim with the bitterness of atrocities, that pose the gravest threat to India's secularism. Extremist Hindu politicians are exploiting and even leading the strife, assisted by armies of paid goondas (thugs). "Most disputes between Hindus and Muslims are petty," Mr Srivastava said, "but politicians whip them up into big fights. The day will come when the common people will get sick of the politicians and slaughter them. This is my observation after many years."

He said the September 30 riots began after rumours circulated that Hindus had been killed by Muslims. "Only 5 or 10 per cent of the population want trouble. Most Muslims and Hindus want to live in peace alongside one another, as they always have until recently. There was never any history of communal tension in this area; this is all new. Goondas have become members of parliament and they are playing on the ignorance of the common people."

Casting an eye over his prisoner, by now sitting quietly in the dust awaiting his thrashing, he said: "He is a poor fellow. They supplied him with alcohol and he went off and spread these stories. If we had a free hand we would crush these troublemakers in six months, but the politicians won't let us. All policemen are fed up. We are not allowed to do our jobs."

Security forces maintained a tight hold over Uttar Pradesh yesterday to prevent Hindu-Muslim clashes, but there were outbreaks in several areas. A curfew was imposed in Aligarh, outside Delhi, after several people were killed in stone-throwing incidents. Scores of shops and houses were destroyed in the Sadar Bazaar area of Lucknow, the state capital, which was practically deserted. Police maintained a heavy presence in Ayodhya, where Hindu zealots were still trying to start building a temple on the site of the ancient mosque.

Dhaka curfew after clashes

FROM AHMED FAZI IN DHAKA

MILITANT Muslims ransacked Hindu temples and looted Hindu businesses and houses in Dhaka and Chittagong as tension grew in Bangladesh yesterday over the Hindu-Muslim mosque dispute at Ayodhya in India, witnesses and police said.

The government imposed an indefinite curfew in Old Dhaka yesterday evening as Muslim mobs demolished temples and looted Hindu-owned businesses in growing communal violence in the capital. Scores of fire appliances were rushed to Old Dhaka, which has a large Hindu minority population, as shops were set on fire by Muslim protesters.

A densely populated Hindu district, Shankhari bazaar, was sealed off by riot police and security forces. More than 100 people were arrested for rioting, according to official sources.

More than 20,000 Muslim fundamentalists marched in central Dhaka with green Islamic banners denouncing India and shouting anti-Hindu slogans.

A fundamentalist newspaper, Inqilab, called for a jihad (holy war) by Muslims against India to protect the disputed mosque in Ayodhya.

The authorities also imposed an indefinite curfew in the port city of Chittagong, about 150 miles south of Dhaka, which has a population of four million including a large Hindu minority. Paramilitary troops and riot police patrolled the business and residential districts which had been the scene of Muslim violence early yesterday. At least 35 people were injured



Dhaka vigil: a Hindu priest praying at the entrance to a temple, watched over by Bangladeshi police standing guard in case of attack by Muslim extremists

and a temple was badly damaged in Chittagong during the attack, which was led by suspected fundamentalist Muslims, according to hospital doctors and residents.

Hindu temples were also damaged in the northern town of Dinajpur, where security has been reinforced and army garrisons have been placed on

alert, local journalists reported.

Bangladesh government leaders yesterday appealed for calm despite "provocations" and urged people to maintain communal harmony.

Shah Moazzem Hussain, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the ruling Jatiyo party, said: "We have to

protect minorities, irrespective of what happens in Dhaka." He urged party members to organise vigilante squads against communal violence.

Bangladesh's population of 110 million people includes ten million Hindus who mostly inhabit the southern part of the country.

Pakistan election victors choose leader

FROM REUTERS IN ISLAMABAD

THE largest party in Pakistan's new national assembly after last week's elections yesterday named Nawaz Sharif as its candidate for prime minister, the party leader said.

Mohammed Khan Junejo, president of the Muslim League, told reporters the party had chosen Mr Sharif to be the leader of its parliamentary group. The league is the main component of the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance which trounced Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in the elections.

The nomination makes it certain that Mr Sharif will be the next prime minister rather than caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance parliamentary party meets in Islamabad today and is certain to confirm Mr Sharif's candidature, alliance sources said.

In Karachi, Miss Bhutto launched a last-ditch effort yesterday to try to form a government in her home province of Sindh.

"She has received encouraging response from independent and minorities' leaders," said Iqbal Haider, secretary of the People's Democratic Alliance, of which Miss Bhutto's party is the main component. The alliance won 47 of the 100 seats at stake in Sindh.

Failure to form the Sindh government would leave Miss Bhutto without any power base from where she could regroup her demoralised forces to form an effective opposition.

Death toll rises in battle over mosque

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DELHI

TEN more people were reported killed yesterday after the attempt by Hindus to tear down a disputed mosque at Ayodhya and build a temple on the site. The latest deaths were reported from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, where sporadic violence continued despite the heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces. It was not known whether the dead were Hindus or Muslims.

In Kashmir hundreds of Hindus took to the streets in several cities and towns, stoning security forces during a general strike to protest against security forces firing on the Hindu activists who stormed the mosque. The Press Trust of India said police shot dead an arsonist in Gujarat's Godhra region yesterday. Three people were killed in overnight violence elsewhere.

Twenty-four people have died in the western coastal state since widespread violence erupted between Hindus and Muslims early on Tuesday. The clashes were an aftermath of Tuesday's shooting by the security forces at the mosque.

One report from Uttar Pradesh said that busloads of Hindus were yesterday leaving Ayodhya. Officials said more paramilitary forces were deployed in the holy city to guard the disputed shrine, while policemen conducted night-long raids on temples looking for Hindu militants. Armed troops also formed a

formidable shield around the tiny town to try to halt Hindu infiltration.

One Hindu activist leaving the town said without elaborating: "We have made a compromise with our leaders and so we are going back."

The Press Trust of India said troops were patrolling curfew-bound areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main city, while an indefinite curfew continued in Baroda, Broach and Panch Mahals districts.

Three people were killed in a spate of stabbings in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh capital, after Hindus set off firecrackers overnight on Tuesday to celebrate the storming of the Ayodhya shrine, officials said. Two people died in street violence in the central Indian city of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, while an unidentified person was stabbed and killed in southern Hyderabad city, the news agency said.

Pitched battles raged between security forces and Hindu activists in Jammu, Kashmir state's winter capital, and other Hindu-majority regions in the province. The trouble started during a general strike called by the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, which withdrew its vital parliamentary backing for the 11-month-old government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister.

Security forces made repeated cane charges and used tear gas against violent mobs before firing warning shots in the air.

Cambodia factions rebuild image to canvass for votes

FROM NEIL KELLY ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

CAMPAIGNING is underway for elections to be held in Cambodia, when peace returns. New political parties are being formed in the refugee camps along the border and are sending emissaries through the minefields to seek support inside Cambodia.

The communist government in Phnom Penh has begun electioneering too, trying to rebuild the party image which has been tarnished by corruption and abuses of power. Ministers and senior officials on countryside tours are organising anti-Pol Pot rallies to attract support among the younger people who may not remember the murderous years when the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia. Other candidates are rich émigrés from Paris and the United States who have returned to campaign for a slice of a new nation.

At Site Eight camp 36,000 refugees attached to the Khmer Rouge have been practising for elections by electing camp administrators. Some will run in national elections when the time comes. Son Songhak, aged 31, who lost a leg in a minefield, is a likely candidate. He studies political history when he is not conducting classes in various technical skills. He will have nothing to do with communism. "I want to see liberalism because our nature as Cambodians demands freedom," he said.

Claiming that the Khmer Rouge gave up communism ten years ago, Seng Sok, the Khmer Rouge camp leader, said their election platform would emphasise democracy and a free-market system. But Son Songhak said he could not quite believe that. "The Khmer Rouge seems to be changing but I'm not sure if they've really changed in their hearts," he said.

According to defectors, Pol



Pol Pot: unlikely to run in any election or hold office

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the tripartite resistance coalition, comprising the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the Sihanoukists. The people of the Khmer Rouge camps say meetings are often held to endorse the prince's remarks.

Prince Sihanouk is on record as saying the Khmer Rouge will win many seats in the election. According to US intelligence sources, at least 30 per cent of Cambodians will vote for them. Much of that support will be bought. The

process has already begun: Khmer Rouge guerrillas pay generously for everything they buy from peasants and also provide other help. "Whenever they capture anything they distribute it among the peasants," said Thon Thon, a leader of the non-communist liberation front.

An international aid official working inside Cambodia said people abroad might not want to hear about it but Khmer Rouge personnel behaved themselves, did not molest women and were honest compared with the other factions. That was why they were making political progress.

Diplomatic sources say the Khmer Rouge has virtually unlimited funds from China to use in the election as well as revenue from border trading in gems and timber. The United States will provide campaign funds for the two non-communist factions, according to the same sources. American money is already financing the new Liberal Democratic party which has been established at the front's huge Site 2 camp housing 175,000 refugees.

Thon Thon, one of its leaders, said the party was committed to Western-style democracy. Cadres were at work to "make the people aware of democracy" and also travelled inside Cambodia to spread the word there, he said. Human rights are in all their minds. At mass rallies the refugees demand categorical commitments by their leaders to the UN Human Rights Charter.

Even in the Khmer Rouge camps people are prepared to speak up against their leaders. "Why can't they agree on a ceasefire and a peace plan," asked Son Songhak. "People's lives depend on it." The Khmer Rouge leader at the camp said: "Yes we're all tired of war, our soldiers too."

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Breaking out of the past

Terence Morris

Lord Justice Woolf's inquiry into prison disturbances has just concluded a series of public seminars on the future of the prison service. Plagued as it is by overcrowding and in recent years racked by riots, culminating in that at Strangeways, which has proved to be the most prolonged and destructive in the history of British prisons, the time is ripe to consider a radical change in the management of the penal system. Such a change would go far beyond the administration of prisons to embrace within a single commission responsibility for all the orders of the criminal courts.

In 1963, despite widespread opposition, the Prison Commission for England and Wales — which had existed since 1877 — was abolished and the administration of prisons absorbed within the Home Office. Since then the history of prisons in England and Wales has been one of recurring crisis and overall decline. Staff are disgruntled and industrial relations have at times fallen to levels lower than almost anywhere else in the public sector. The physical conditions in local prisons, where the majority of inmates spend their time, have deteriorated as a result of both overcrowding and the physical decay of the buildings. Decline in demand for unskilled labour has made the "working day" in many prisons something belonging to a dimly remembered past. A corrosive idleness has been added to physical squalor.

Within the Home Office, overcrowding has had a maelstrom and damaging effect on thinking. For although significant, it has not been the sole or even over-arching element in the process of decline. Official policy has been dominated by the idea of providing more cell space in new establishments, but these have increased the facilities for medium and long-term inmates — not the majority whose short sentences are served in local penal slums. Moreover, the great successes achieved by penal reformers in making it more difficult for the courts to imprison young and first offenders have, ironically, helped to change the character of the prison population; generally, prisoners today are more experienced in crime and in many cases are more violent and intransigent.

In 1963 a great opportunity was missed. Instead of being absorbed by the Home Office, the Prison Commission could have provided the foundation for an agency bringing together the activities of all those concerned with the custody, control, training and rehabilitation of offenders, in the most rational and economic way. The American model of a correctional authority — a public agency responsible to the state — was already well-proven in such states as California. What we propose is not a slavish copy of such a model, but one both appropriate to

current needs and broadly in accord with government thinking on agencies.

A new criminal justice commission would be such an agency under the management of publicly appointed commissioners and responsible to Parliament through the Home Secretary. It would be charged with the task of running not only prisons but the probation and parole services, community service and all forms of "punishment in the community", including the supervision of fines and various legal qualifications.

A modern criminal justice system is essentially flexible; the courts no longer look upon imprisonment as the basic penalty — as they did when most of our prisons were built — but as a sentence of last resort. Increasingly, we rely upon non-custodial sentences of various kinds which, if they are to be effective, require staff who are both trained and encouraged to perform their own initiatives. This was once true of prisons in the "golden era" of the old Prison Commission.

All those who work with offenders have to develop certain skills in common, irrespective of subsequent specialisation, and the new commission could, through a basic system of training and recruitment, be responsible for that. By controlling the entire "estate" of buildings and facilities an old city prison, unsuitable for custodial purposes, might, for example, be put to use as hostel accommodation for probationers and those on bail and as a day centre. Staff could transfer from one part of the system to another. Within its various divisions, the commission would be able to delegate responsibility for policy to local management. As well as stimulating new ideas, it would make for the easier and more constructive involvement of the local community and its voluntary organisations.

A large organisation is not necessarily an inefficient one, as multinational corporations demonstrate. What is important is to recognise the common elements in an effective system of criminal justice and the potential for economies of scale. Another advantage of these proposals is that commissioners would be publicly accessible and able to contribute to the debate about the shape of policy in a way that civil servants cannot.

The danger is that in the aftermath of Strangeways there is a temptation to find some way of patching up the prison system. But that is not what is needed; something far more profound, and thus a more radical solution is essential.

Terence Morris is professor of social institutions at London University. This article was jointly written with Louis Blom-Cooper QC, vice-president of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

In France restaurants tend to be family owned and run: father cooks, mother guards the cash register, daughter takes orders, son is in the cellar and grandpa perches in a corner of the bar until day is done, when he goes out and helps the great-aunts with the washing up.

It is not like that on our side of the channel tunnel, where restaurants are for buying and selling. Over here, when an establishment has been built up by a chef of quality, it is sold — with goodwill — to an accountant or a greengrocer who continues to trade on the high reputation of his predecessor until he is rumbled. "Eventually rumbling places" is what food guides are principally about.

The *Good Food Guide* for 1991 hit the bookshops at the end of September 1990; like all such publications it is out of date the day it rolls off the presses, and by the time it reaches the "sell by" date on the cover in January, even more places will have changed hands, had their chefs recruited by headhunters, sacked their charismatic *maitres d'hôtel* after a midnight stock-take. To counter scepticism, and to mollify punters who went to Ludlow because Dinham Hall "offers an urban variation of a country house theme" only to find that the receiver's man is burning the toast, the 1991 *Good Food Guide* has printed some helpful articles at the back of the book, after Northern Ireland.

The best of these is "Your Rights in Restaurants". The fact that once you begin to insist on "your rights" there is not much chance of achieving the relaxed and enjoyable evening out that is the aim of going to dine in a restaurant, seems irrelevant to the authors; they give it to you like it is.

"You're kept waiting an hour before the waiter takes your order. When you complain the waiter is rude to you."

Could there really be people who will wait 60 minutes for service? My advice would be: "Check that the restaurant is open; the likelihood is that it closed a week ago and some member of the departing staff forgot to lock the door."

The *Guide* says you have the

right "to refuse to pay all or part of the service charge".

Picture the scene: Mr and Mrs Clutterbuck, seduced by the publicity of the English Tourist Board, have taken their children and the Scandinavian mother's help to a restaurant. They arrive at 7pm; by 8pm a waiter hoves into view.

"Se and the girls have been waiting an hour to order. Is this the best you can do?"

"Fatta slob," says the waiter. "Your wife gotta dandruff and the children are non-sympathetic," and he then makes a pass at the au pair.

In order to take advantage of the GFG advice, the family would have to wait until the end of the meal, if they live that long, then decide how much to deduct from the mandatory service charge.

By my reckoning, 20 minutes of being ignored gives the customer every right to open warfare: play musical chairs, help himself from the liquor trolley, catch the goldfish from the ornamental bowl and eat it in a bread roll.

But today there are commoner restaurant problems than slow and discourteous service.

● A waiter who speaks no English except "not my table" attacks you about the face and body with a bread knife.

● The chef arrives, joins you at your table, calls over his wife and orders a magnum of vintage port (Taylor's, 1963). The cashier presents a bill for £325; it is marked "no credit cards or cheques".

● Although there is a symbol denoting "no muzak", the Black Dyke Mills Band enters from the kitchen playing the Floral Dance and the tambourine spills your dessert wine.

● Four people at an adjoining table die into their After Eight mints and as the ambulance-men arrive to remove the bodies you notice the cloakroom woman leaving with your overcoat.

The *Guide's* advice is to pay the bill under protest and write to the trading standards officer of the local authority.

I do hope we are ready for the challenges of 1992.



Brunt: Victorian victim of coal mine disaster who constantly had to raise new money for his 'darling' Clifton suspension bridge

Glorious link with the greats

Alan Franks believes the channel tunnel emerges credibly when compared with British engineering triumphs of the past

Now that England has at last conformed to John Donne's maxim about men and islands, one question of national dignity remains unanswered. Indeed, it has not even been asked. It is this: does the channel tunnel really stand in direct line of descent from our great engineering feats of the past?

If the criterion is that all British projects of comparable ambition, especially those involving trains, must be stories of bankruptcy and tragedy before they bed down timelessly into the transport infrastructure, then the tunnel, so far, fails to qualify. It is this very failure that should make us view Tuesday's twining of hands, or at least drill-heads, 130 feet beneath the Channel, as an unprecedented triumph.

The project has often seemed in danger of collapse as the costs have risen to £7 billion from an original estimate of £4.7 billion, and there is still no guarantee that it will not prove a bottomless pit for shareholders' money; true, there have been seven deaths on the British side and two on the French, and true, there is the small matter of Kent and the high-speed link. But if the present work can be considered as a discrete operation, rather than as part of a continuum originating in the dreams of the French mining engineer Albert Mathieu 188 years ago, the tunnel has been light on headaches.

The fact is that major works have come in over budget since Stonehenge, and in those days they could not even make a scapegoat of labour costs. Take Brunel's historic suspension bridge at Clifton, "my first child, my darling", postponed time after time as the costs soared and the Clifton Bridge Company sought yet more money from the shareholders; or the Forth Bridge, where of the 5,000 construction workers (2,000 fewer than the British number employed on the new tunnel), 57 were killed, and about 500 injured.

If you allow that only half the channel tunnel is in the UK, the 17-mile stretch from East Finchley to Morden via Bank on the London Underground's Northern line remains our longest tunnel. And that construction, from 1890 until well into the 20th century, had almost as many hiccups as the "misery" line's present Charing Cross-Easton run.

As for Brunel's atmospheric railway, the South Devon, with its eight pumping stations between Exeter and Newton Abbot, a chain of technical failures soon

showed it to be impractical.

In terms of engineering ambition, the London and Birmingham Railway, which received royal assent in 1825, was no less an undertaking than the channel tunnel. The cost of the land required rose nearly threefold from the original estimate of £250,000, and the capital authorised by an Act of Parliament the previous year, at £2.5 million — already well up on the original estimate of £1.5 million — proved woefully inadequate. By the time the work was finished, the company had had to shuttles back and forth to Parliament, cap-in-hand, for the actual cost of £5.5 million.

In their own way the difficulties facing the L and B engineers were as severe as the geological ones surmounted by Eurotunnel. The main problem was that the great engineer George Stephenson had decreed that the line should be built with a gradient not steeper than one in 330; and this through terrain littered with hills. The result was a chain of long, deep cuttings and tunnels including, at Kilsby, a passage through quick-

sands. As for the steep climb for the first mile out of Euston, to Camden Town, only cable haulage would do.

"Everywhere were bridges that led nowhere," wrote Charles Dickens in *Dombey and Son* as he surveyed the L and B work in progress; "and wildernesses of bricks and giant forms of cranes, and tripods straddling above nothing." *Plus ça change.*

"What about the Thames barrier?" asks Dr John Dougill, director of engineering at the Institute of Structural Engineers. "Or the M1, or the M25. Huge problems with all of them... Technically, you could say that the motorways would have been better products if more time had been spent on their construction. That was our great attempt to catch up with US and European road-building, and it was driven forward by political imperative."

Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of the construction giant, Traylor House, has no doubt about where the channel tunnel stands in the historic scale of British engineering. "It eclipses the rest. For sheer scale and complexity, it is easily the biggest. If you want something comparable you have to go to the canals of Suez or Panama, probably even back to the Pyramids." Which makes the Egyptians' achievement arguably the greater, as they managed entirely without British consultants.

Cast to the flames, or words that should live forever?

Bernard Levin joins in the fray over the proposed publication of works that Philip Larkin wanted destroyed

There is a jolly row going on concerning the will of the late Philip Larkin, and since rows are my speciality, I shall do my best this morning to make matters worse.

For those who have not followed the story — it began when Larkin died — I summarise the course of the dispute. Larkin, in many ways a reclusive figure, gave instructions in his will that on his death his diaries should be destroyed. That was done but he also gave instructions about the unpublished remainder of his work, including poetry, short stories and matter forming part of unfinished novels, and this is where the trouble started.

His executors insisted they were in a difficulty over Larkin's wishes in the matter of these remains. To some eyes it has seemed clear that he wanted them all to be destroyed, as with the diaries; other eyes — those of the executors — have seen what to them were ambiguities in the will, and deduced that that was not so. In the event, the executors are plainly bent on publishing some of the unfinished *oeuvre* and leaving other works unseen, though whether they propose to destroy the matter they are not intending to publish is not clear.

The row has been bubbling along since Larkin's will was read, and it has just boiled over. The executors, they include Anthony Thwaite, whose integrity none, I think, would question, mindful of the argument over the apparent ambiguities in the will, called in a lawyer to study the wording and give an opinion. Here, I feel, they were being a touch disingenuous. True, the lawyer opined that the wording of the will permitted them to publish what they wished, and I suppose they were entitled to rely on his expertise, but they knew perfectly well that by tea-time on the same day they could have assembled 40 lawyers to give an entirely contrary view, and by lunch the day after another 50 to back up the first opinion, and

indeed before the weekend another 77 who would unanimously say that on the one hand it was clear that they could publish, and on the other hand that it was plain that they could not.

"Dead men tell no tales," says a judge in one of A.P. Herbert's *Misleading Cases*, adding, "and it were better that they made no wills." It is not clear whether Larkin composed his entirely unaided, or whether he sought legal assistance; if the latter, he should have known that the chances of posthumous chaos were thereby substantially enhanced. (So far, there has been no litigation, but that happy state of affairs may not last.)

But even if Larkin had made it quite impossible for anyone to misinterpret his wishes, saying plainly and in capital letters that he wanted every unpublished word he ever wrote summarily burned, there would have been a body of opinion, including I am quite sure, some of his literary executors, who would have objected to what they would have seen as failing in their duty to posterity rather than to the poet. (History is littered with such disputes: James Joyce died in 1941, but his descendants are still kicking up rough about his literary remains, not necessarily because the copyright is about to run out.)

As it happens, when the Larkin row caught fire I was reading the *Diaries* of H.L. Mencken, my hero since boyhood; the editor and Mencken's literary executors had faced a similar problem. Mencken had stipulated that his diaries should be sealed for 25 years, and the ban had been faithfully observed. He died in 1956, which is considerably longer than 25 years, but publication was held up by a dispute over another item in his will; apparently, he had no objection to letting scholars and students see the diaries when the quarter-century was up, but jibbed at any wider circulation. The deadlock was broken when a law-



yer (I bet you didn't know that they have lawyers in America, too) studied Mencken's will and opined that it would be all right by him (him the lawyer, not necessarily him Mencken) for general reading to take place.

For my part, I am grateful to the American lawyer; Mencken in the original cloth could be candid enough, but Mencken 34 years dead, his cockles clearly audible from the afterworld, fair takes away the breath, with no suggestion of ever bringing it back. Even now, the editor thinks it politic from time to time to replace a name or identification with a few discreet suspension points, but I would not have missed the ripeness of Mencken unchained for all

the lawyers and all their bills.

There is a real dilemma in this business. Many people, particularly artists, have left instructions that certain works of theirs should be destroyed at their death; sometimes, the stipulation is for everything left unfinished to go. But suppose Schubert had left such instructions, to his brother Ferdinand, say, or Grillparzer. Would you have applauded them for their fidelity to his instructions as they fed the bonfire with all those unpublished songs? I'm damned if I would; I would have called them criminals of the lowest degree. And if Hüttenbrenner, his memory jogged at last by the news of Schubert's death, had trotted round with the MS of the Unfin-

ished, which Schubert had entrusted to him years before, and tossed it on the flames, would not the very universe have demanded vengeance? Dear God — suppose Mendelssohn had gone to Carter-Ruck for advice on what to do with the MS of the C major Symphony and been told that Schubert's children might sue if it were not destroyed? (Schubert did not have any children, but Carter-Ruck might not have known that.)

Now, though, can we take refuge in the artist's choice of what to keep and what to throw out; artists are notorious for misjudging their own work. Larkin did leave some poetry which was plainly inferior to his best work (and he was not one of those who cannot tell their best from their worst — he was merciless to his failures, as witness the scores of extant versions of some of his poems). It could be said that the executors are ignoring the implications of his refusal to publish poems left, years ago, in manuscript. But that does not settle the matter either; if, in my hypothesis, Schubert's instructions had gone unheeded, in the greater cause of preserving his genius for posterity, who am I to say that Larkin's should have been rigidly followed? No doubt Schubert was a greater genius than Larkin, but that cannot be the test — we should have missed much pleasure and solace if the Great McGonagall's verses had not been preserved, even (which is extremely unlikely) if he did not wish them to be.

In law, there is a remedy from the courts if a legacy is given to someone other than the stipulated legatee; perhaps there is a law that testamentary provisions that do not allocate money or money's worth cannot be enforced. But that still leaves the Larkin problem where it was, for whatever the courts may decide, the argument is not a legal one but a moral one, and the argument over should/shouldn't would still not be resolved.

I don't suppose it ever will be. For my part, I have made no provision for the testamentary disposition of my literary remains; not because I think them too insignificant but because I have no intention of dying. And that is all I have to say this morning.

Heath in harmony

Still basking in the afterglow of his mercy mission to Baghdad, Edward Heath is assuming the unlikely role of pop concert promoter. He has engaged Paul McCartney and Bob Geldof to top the bill at a rock-about next summer in the grounds of Longleaf House — best known for its lions — owned by the Marquis of Bath. A strange departure for the ex-premier and conductor, but all is explained when he says that the takings — which could exceed £3 million — will go to the Salisbury Cathedral spire appeal.

First Heath must deploy the same diplomatic skills he used on Saddam Hussein to convince West Wiltshire district council that the prospect of 100,000 fans trudging through the countryside is nothing to worry about. And he also has to contend with the local Tory MP, Sir Dennis Walters. That is an awful lot of people they are talking about," says Walters. "It won't bother me as I live seven miles away. But if my constituents don't like the idea I shall raise the matter immediately."

Heath decided to assume his Harvey Goldsmith role in an attempt to involve young people in the spire appeal, which was attacked as elitist after he charged guests, including David Rockefeller and Helmut Schmidt, £1,000 a head to have dinner in his Salisbury garden. However, classical music will be included in the programme and Heath may even go on stage with his baton.

The Marquis of Bath gladly gave

permission for the concert to be held at Longleaf after Heath went up in a helicopter to view 12 potential sites. Speaking to the *Diary* after receiving an honorary degree at London University yesterday, Heath admitted to one reservation. "I just hope they feed the lions before we get there."

I'm into punk rock myself.

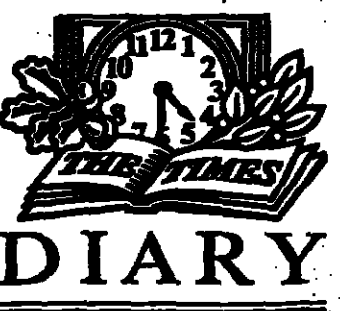


Expert touch

When the Prince of Wales's arm is sufficiently mended for him to return to paintbox and easel, we may see a new expertise in his work. Secretly, it emerges, he has been taking painting lessons. His tutor is the portrait painter Derek Hill, who was asked to join the prince on some of his painting expeditions. The prince was taken with Hill's technique on the two occasions he sat for him.

Hill, who paints only in oils, says of his royal pupil: "I don't think he would be so good at oils, but he is very good at watercolours."

The royal connection emerges in an interview with Hill for Naim Attallah's new book, *Singular Encounters*. On the prince's controversial views on architecture,



DIARY

ture, Hill says: "The great thing about him is that he cares about what he says and thinks. He gets the feeling of the place..." Words that could equally be applied to the prince as painter.

Perhaps, with Hill's encouragement, he will drop the camouflage of Arthur George, Caricac and simply sign his works "Charles".

● The government should perhaps be sympathetic to Lord Jenkin of Roding, who joined the Tory revolt in the Lords yesterday over dog registration. In 1985, as environment secretary, he gained cabinet committee approval for a scheme similar to that the government now opposes. It was dropped because of pressure of business. Had it been adopted, Mrs Thatcher would have been saved a lot of trouble.

Making a splash

Oxford is currently celebrating the centenary of the arrival at the university of Max Beerbohm, and next month sees the premiere of a musical adaptation of *Zuleika Dobson*. Adam Blackburn, a Balliol classics graduate who adapted the book for the stage, said at rehearsals at

Oxford's Apollo theatre: "I don't think anybody loved Oxford more than Beerbohm. All his feelings for the town were encapsulated in his novel."

This is not the first attempt at a Zuleika musical: the Gershwins wrote one in the Fifties, but it has disappeared. Blackburn hopes, however, that his version will endure, though he concedes that Beerbohm's finale of hundreds of lovebirds undergoing drowning themselves does present certain technical problems.

Beerbohm's intoxication with the university was not confined to his fiction. Looking back, he wrote: "I was a modest, good humoured boy; it is Oxford that has made me insufferable."

Meyer lives on

Like Banquo's ghost, the spectral figure of Sir Anthony Meyer continues to haunt Mrs Thatcher. Although he has been despatched, the selection process by the Clwyd North West Tory party is overshadowed by his threat to stand as an independent if it chooses a "Thatcherite yes-man" or someone whose pro-European credentials are in doubt.

The choice of a candidate for the safest Tory seat in Wales has already been delayed by resignations among local Tory officials after Meyer's decision not to enter the selection procedure. He has represented the area for 20 years and has a strong personal following. Should he carry out his threat, the Tory vote would be split, Labour's advantage.

One candidate for the nomination who should have Meyer's blessing is John Horam, the

former Labour MP who defected to the SDP partly because of Labour's then lukewarm attitude to Europe and finally moved on to the Tories. Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, is anxious that Horam be selected.

Meyer, dubbed "the stalking donkey" after his challenge to Mrs Thatcher last year, says a leadership election later this month is "now a possibility, when three weeks ago it was unthinkable".

Tables turned

October has been a fulfilling month for Harry Evans, formerly editor of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*. Last week, at the age of 62, he again became a father when his wife, Tina Brown, had a daughter. And yesterday he was confirmed as president and publisher of Random House, one of America's top publishing firms. The appointment means that Evans, now editor-in-chief of *Condé Nast's Traveler*, will handle the forthcoming memoirs of his former boss, Lord Murdoch. "The wheel of fortune makes me your publisher as you used to be mine," wrote Evans to Murdoch. "But please don't pull any punches."

● The owners of a new *Maiden Vale* tennis club, intended to rival the Princess of Wales's favourite *Vanderbilt Racquet Club*, may regret calling it the *Carlton*. Although they have enticed enthusiasts such as novelist Martin Amis, they have been less successful with Americans living in London. When Stuart Bailey, the director, contacted some of the targeted members, he was told: "Aren't you the club blown up by the IRA?"



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

DIPLOMACY'S LAST CHANCE

Since invading Kuwait three months ago, President Saddam Hussein has not only held out against the international coalition ranged against him but increasingly dictated the diplomatic agenda. His is a two-fold strategy, calibrated with bravura and cunning. The first is to destroy the infrastructure and identity of the once-prosperous state of Kuwait, driving out its people and terrorising those who remain. He has sought to transform the country into a depopulated desert with nothing but oilwells and a small port. The second is to play on his opponents' horror of war, using "mercy" towards groups of foreign hostages. He seeks to keep alive the fiction that he is a reasonable man who, if "negotiated with", might yet see the error of his ways.

For three months his opponents have been compelled by public opinion, by their genuine desire for a peaceful outcome and by the bloodiness of the military option to play the game on Saddam's terms. Helped by the West's initial decisiveness, the anti-Saddam alliance has held under the difficult conditions of phoney war. There has been no significant defection from those demanding complete withdrawal, the restoration of the Kuwaiti government and the release of all hostages. Iraqi compensation and liability for war crimes are also on the UN agenda.

Yet by no reckoning has diplomacy made any progress. Despite the persistent and unexplained optimism of President Gorbachev's emissary, Yevgeny Primakov, Saddam has said absolutely nothing to indicate that he is prepared to yield one millimetre of Kuwaiti territory, never mind withdraw unconditionally. There has been speculation that his redrawing of the map of Kuwait, to join the Rumaila oilfield and access to the sea to Iraq's Basra province and create a "19th province" of the rest, indicates a fallback position. There is no evidence for that assumption either.

To worried Western eyes, withdrawal to that line and relinquishing Kuwait City would be shrewd, driving a wedge between the allies and reinforcing the pressure for a diplomatic compromise. But the frequency with which the idea is canvassed says more about the nervousness of Saddam's opponents than it does about his own intentions.

As time passes, he has no need of such a stratagem. It would involve ceding Iraq's territorial claim to all of Kuwait and leave his tanks sitting ducks to American assault in the desert, well away from the populated area of Kuwait City, which the Americans might be reluctant to bomb. Certainly partial with-

drawal might erode allied determination, but time is doing that anyway.

The serious flaw in the arguments of those who have put their faith in UN resolutions — the oldest flaw in the book — has been the belief in the efficacy of economic sanctions. Iraqi industries may have been forced to close for lack of spare parts, but conservative estimates suggest that, for food and fuel, Saddam could hold out until next April. By then Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, would have begun, the hot weather would exact a toll on offensive effectiveness and Saudi Arabia would already be looking nervously to the annual pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina in June.

Whatever chaos sanctions may have wrought in the rest of the oil-consuming world, they have clearly not increased Saddam's inclination to admit defeat. Only the prospect of military action appears to have done that, witness the flurry of statements out of Baghdad and New York yesterday. The American secretary of state, James Baker, set off on Saturday for the Middle East and Europe on what is the last play for a diplomatic settlement. If that fails the only question is when military action is likely to be most decisive.

The signals from Washington are still unclear. There is no doubting President Bush's anger over the plight of American hostages and horrendous treatment of Kuwaitis. His emphasis yesterday of Iraqi provocation could be intended to prepare the political ground for attack. The governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are urging haste. But Mr Bush is also under pressure not to yield the moral high ground of "waiting for UN sanctions to work", and White House officials yesterday underlined his continuing commitment to "avoiding hostilities".

The appearance of indecision may be deceptive. To keep Saddam guessing is sensible. But the purpose of Mr Baker's trip should be to clear the diplomatic decks, not least with the Soviet Union. He will be helped by President Mubarak's contemptuous dismissal of President Gorbachev's call for an Arab summit, which Egypt sees as an attempt to gloss over the failure of Mr Primakov's most recent talks with Saddam. In Geneva, he should tell Mr Shevardnadze that phoney diplomacy has no place in phoney war and that, if the Soviet Union cannot support military action, its best contribution now would be silence. The last remaining chance of avoiding war is to convince Saddam that war there will be. That chance must now be rated slender indeed.

IRISH SHENANIGANS

Ireland's reputation for political eccentricity was only partly salvaged last night by Charles Haughey's dismissal of his deputy, Brian Lenihan. Mr Lenihan, the country's second most senior politician, denied making a telephone call to the republic's President some years back, during the complicated comings and goings of the revolving-door governments of the 1980s. Confronted by the manifest untruth of his assertion on a tape, he mumbled hopeless apologies and dug himself deeper into trouble. There was a tussle over whether Mr Lenihan should resign from the government. He refused, but eventually was dismissed, thus avoiding an election that nobody wanted.

Extraordinarily, Mr Lenihan is also running for the office of president. Candidates are not allowed to withdraw at this stage. Given the Irish public's despicable tolerance of political shenanigans, he will garner a large sympathy vote, and may still win on November 7 if backed by Mr Haughey.

Irish commentators complain that their politicians are patronised by the grandees of larger and older-established states in Europe. They fail to see that any outsider must regard affairs such as this one as absurd and depressing.

The drama is dispiriting not because a politician has bent the rules and compounded the error by further folly. No political system, including Britain's, is proof against this. What distinguishes Irish politics is the public and political response to Mr Lenihan's little difficulty. A party colleague of Messrs Lenihan and Haughey recently told a crowd, which roared its approval, that "we in Fianna Fail are ordinary people and unlike Fine Gael and Labour, we don't need to go to confession

every morning." This opaque remark is taken to be Irish political code for all's fair in love and politics. Mr Dick Spring, leader of the small and ailing Labour Party, who delivered a fine speech of fire and brimstone in the Dail yesterday, "wonders for the country" on hearing this remark.

Mr Haughey, leader of the present coalition government, left it to the last possible moment to sack — or even to criticise — his longtime colleague. He should now distance himself completely from Mr Lenihan.

Solidarity with other members of the clan or cabal seems to have become the guiding rule of some Irish politicians, exalted almost to the exclusion of all other standards. At least some of the electorate seem to approve. The news is not all bad. Mr Lenihan faces a powerful challenge in the presidential election from Mary Robinson, a distinguished lawyer. In standing as the candidate of "judgment, integrity and independence", Mrs Robinson is fighting on a platform which is not as popular as it should be. In her statements on social, religious and political questions she represents a movement that wishes to open up and reform a society under strain. But the movement is so far largely confined to Dublin and the east coast.

A woman politician, elected as president of the Irish Republic on her platform and in the present circumstances, would be a sign that Irish politics were not locked in the dark conspiratorial hatreds of the civil war of the 1920s from which the major parties sprang. She deserves to win. If Mr Lenihan beats her, the Irish — and Mr Haughey — should be ashamed.

PRINCE OF REASON

The near-impossibility of the job which British public opinion now expects the Prince of Wales to perform was given lurid expression yesterday. The Prince's first engagement since he broke his arm in June occasioned speculation about his domestic happiness, his susceptibility to eccentric fads and his alleged reclusiveness. The tabloid newspapers need not have worried that their best source of printable one-liners was drying up. Only a man endowed with superhuman patience could have replied to an inquisitive question about his sore right arm: "If you really want to know, I am barely alive."

Charles is heir to a grim tradition. Edward VII endured an even longer period as heir to the throne, was less popular and behaved incomparably worse while it lasted. The record of Edward VIII, the most recent comparable royal personage, is well known. The present holder of this most awkward of hereditary titles has, by comparison, been a beacon of enlightenment, reflective and original thinking. On architecture, the environment and social policy — especially the role of young and old — the Prince has been ahead of his time. He condemned the wanton demolition of villages by Ceausescu while the Romanian dictator was still an honorary knight of the realm. By taking on his shoulders the weight of philistine prejudice, he has helped minorities of all kinds: environmental, nutritional or aesthetic.

Now the cold tap of criticism has been turned on his interest in complementary, or alternative, medicine. Yesterday he did not flinch from marking his return to public life by

endorsing the work of the Marylebone health centre, an enterprising medical practice with quarters in the crypt of the local parish church. The Prince deserves praise for his moral courage in disregarding not only vulgar but also self-interested expert opinion on this matter.

The extension of complementary medicine — such as acupuncture, osteopathy, holistic medicine — to NHS patients is a wholly desirable aim, even though it is not yet supported by the public purse. Marylebone is already being emulated by NHS general practitioners elsewhere. Whether the lobbyists of the medical profession approve of this development is immaterial. The Prince stands for wider choice. To dub Charles an enemy of Thatcherism, as some do, is too glib. But for all his conventional style and speech, he is no pillar of any Establishment.

The Prince of Wales's philosophy can be simply defined. He believes that today's moral and spiritual values risk being squeezed and distorted by the pressures of what the American sociologist, David Riesman, called "the lonely crowd". Like any sensitive person, he finds solitude good for his sanity. Pain may have aggravated his reaction to the relentless impertinence of the media's gaze. He may have been grumpy, but he has been sorely tried. The British are fortunate to have an heir to the throne who contrives both to respect political and constitutional convention and to thumb his nose at the intellectual herd. He is the most rounded, decent and intelligent head-of-state in waiting Britain has had for centuries.

Support for Thatcher on Europe

From Mr Pierre Salinger

Sir, I am getting concerned about the continuing attacks on Prime Minister Thatcher over her position on the single European market currency. What she is saying is right, but badly understood.

First, she is right that many important issues need to be resolved between the European countries before a single currency can be developed. How is it possible to have a single currency among countries with different tax rates, different VAT rates, and different social programs?

For those who try to compare this problem with the United States where, in effect, there are different tax rates state by state, one should understand that the United States started at a point more than 200 years ago with its single currency. That is not the case in Europe where moving to a single currency with the massive national differences is much more difficult.

Second, it should be realized that the Great Britain, under the leadership of Mrs Thatcher, has been at the head of the list of European countries moving towards the single market economy of 1992. The British Parliament has adopted most of the new European laws than any other country in the EC. Mrs Thatcher is not an anti-European leader.

Many other countries understand the problems Mrs Thatcher has put forward, but do not have the courage to say so in public.

I am sure that Mrs Thatcher will be vindicated in the years ahead.

Yours faithfully,

PIERRE SALINGER,
3 Montpelier Square,
Knightsbridge, SW7,
October 30.

From Mr Michael Welsh, MEP for

Lancashire Central (European

Democrat (Conservative)

Sir, It is ironic that, as European heads of government celebrate the 11-1 agreement to introduce Stage 2 of economic and monetary union on January 1, 1994, they fail to understand that their continued procrastination on agricultural reform makes the realisation of that goal much less likely.

As the days pass it seems that the Community is incapable of agreeing a common position for the first stages of the GATT Round and that the Germans are indeed prepared to torpedo the world trading system in the short-term interests of their farmers.

The collapse of the Uruguay Round may well usher in a period of turbulence and recession which would hit the weaker European economies, many of which depend on exports, particularly hard. They might then find it impossible

to accept the obligations of membership of a single currency EMU to which they so blithely consented in Rome.

The Prime Minister was absolutely right to make this point; how sad that her interlocutors were so blinded by her much-trailed opposition to EMU that they failed to take her seriously. Policy-makers in Westminster and Whitehall might also ask themselves why, when the British point of view was so patently correct, it so signally failed to stick.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WELSH,
European Parliament,
97-113 rue Belliard,
1040 Brussels, Belgium,
October 30.

From Bishop Maurice Wood

Sir, The United Kingdom and the Commonwealth find their deep and lasting cohesion vividly affirmed by the Sovereign's head on every stamp, every coin, and every note. Our family of nations, each owing allegiance to her Majesty the Queen in a variety of constitutional ways, would become immeasurably fragmented by an impersonal and dull set of common European coins and notes.

The Prime Minister has a shrewd sense of broad national identity, when she calmly resists a single European currency.

We are not only a major European country, but we are a world power in and through the Commonwealth and the Sovereign's head symbolises this strong and cohesive and continuing unity. The Prime Minister is courageous and correct in this matter. She deserves our open support.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE WOOD,
St Mark's House,
Englefield, Reading, Berkshire,
October 28.

From the Editor of New European

Sir, There can be no doubt that the sovereignty issue is a tricky one. But I should like to draw your readers' attention to the last paragraph of your report (October 30, later editions) on dog registration.

It appears now, however, that, with most of the EC having dog registration, Brussels is thinking of imposing a Community scheme regardless of the Commons vote.

Little things like that must make many people wonder who rules Britain? And what is really meant by "shared sovereignty"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN, Editor,
New European,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8,
October 30.

Tunnel gap

From Mr Roger Moate, MP for

Faversham (Conservative)

Sir, Eurotunnel has launched a campaign to entice the small investor to take part in the rights issue for the Channel tunnel project. It was only on September 15 this year that Mr Alastair Morton, the chairman, was reported in *The Times* as saying that "the shareholders may not survive. They face the real risk, and always have done, because the banks own the security. But if it does go bust, the capitalist process will take over".

It is certainly right to assume, despite a series of crises in the financing arrangements, that the tunnel will be built. Too much bank debt and political prestige have been sunk into the project to allow it to stop.

Junk mail

From Mr Alexander Plummer

Sir, From time to time my bank sends me quantities of rubbish. There are beautifully printed glossy brochures offering goods for sale, places for spending holidays, exhortations to possess divers credit cards and to take loans, insurance and private medicine that I neither want nor need, as well as unwanted information about the bank.

I receive some 2 kilograms of this stuff per annum. Multiply this by the many millions of other bank customers.

Sir, what of the slaughtered forest trees? And think of the paper mills, churning effluent into the nearest river; of the complicated printing machinery and all the people who make and service it; of the gallons of coloured inks, of the wasted

electricity of the lorry drivers, and the wasted petrol.

Think of the postal workers, not forgetting my country postman who has to drive all the way up the lane to put the stuff through my letter box. And my country dustman, who has to drive it all the way back to the council depot, thence to be transported in huge juggernauts thundering through villages, to be dumped over the wildlife in some lonely and beautiful stretch of marshland down the Thames estuary.

All that money, spinning ever faster in ever diminishing circles, must be what they call "the economy", and doubtless has something to do with employment figures.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX PLUMMER,
Hedgehog Cottage,
Walliswood,
Dorking, Surrey.

Roads and nature

From the Director of the

Council for the Protection

of Rural England

Sir, It is all very well for the Secretary of State for Transport to criticise the way in which English Heritage undertook its study of the impact of his road construction programme (report, October 16). But without clear information from his department it is impossible to quantify accurately the impact of his programme on our countryside.

Trunk roads are planned and designed by engineers within the closed walls of Marsham Street and the outlying satellite offices. The result is that the environmental aspects get apparently little consideration in the early stages of planning.

If the secretary of state wishes to appease his critics and to take his environmental mantle seriously then we should be given a full account of the likely consequences of his road construction programme at the time the programme is announced.

These consequences should ad-

dress, as a minimum, the potential damage to nationally protected ecological, cultural and scenic features such as sites of special scientific interest, scheduled ancient monuments and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Then perhaps we could begin a constructive dialogue about how to reduce the cost to our countryside rather than argue about statistics.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PURKIS,
Director,
Council for the Protection
of Rural England,
Warwick House,
25 Buckingham Palace Road,
London SW1,
October 23.

On other lines

From Mr Christopher Jolly

Sir, Scott McIntosh's letter (October 18) ignored busways in making his case for trams and trains.

While modern trams may be able to carry over 20,000 passengers per hour, typical capacities are around a quarter of that. On the other hand, the Express Bus

Community role in probation cases

From the Chief Probation Officer,

Berkshire Probation Service

Sir, Your interesting editorial, "Compassion or control?" (October 26), rightly emphasises the need for positive and demanding community penalties for offenders but overlooks the way in which probation services have developed in recent years and misses a point which should be of wide-spread concern.

Probation staff are well aware of the damage caused by crime — to victims, the community and offenders themselves. Although the supervision of offenders remains the primary task of the probation service, its work now includes local crime-prevention schemes, work for victim support, and the organisation of millions of hours of useful, unpaid community service work by offenders to repay their debt to society.

Even the traditional supervision of probationers which challenges anti-social attitudes and helps them to deal with their personal and social problems is as much a service to the community as to the offender. The whole community is therefore the real "client" of the probation service, as any detailed examination of probation practice will reveal.

The introduction of suspended sentences of imprisonment in 1967 actually led to an increased prison population within three years, whereas Section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1968 has almost certainly contributed to a decrease in the use of custody for 17 to 20-year-old offenders. Any new legislation must build on this experience and impact on sentencing behaviour in the way intended if the government's policy objectives are to be realised.

Curtailed the general power of courts need not threaten judicial independence in any particular case and the pressure which suggests otherwise should be firmly resisted. Most probation staff know only too well that the skill in their work centres not in choosing between "compassion or control" but in successfully reconciling them. What does concern them is that the government should seize

the present opportunity to create a legal framework which will reduce this country's over-dependence on prison. In short, the debate is not about intention or credibility, but effectiveness.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM J. BRYANT,
Chief Probation Officer,
Berkshire Probation Service,
145 Friar Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Miss Carol Fisher

Sir, Taken out of context the views which I expressed to Quentin Cowdry in a telephone conversation ("Court sentences must be tough", report, October 25) could be misleading. In using the word "tough" I was referring to the process of learning self-discipline and altering behaviour patterns for people whose lives are often in chaos. Curfews and electronic tagging may impose external controls on an individual's behaviour. They will not help individuals to build their own controls.

Community service is not an easy option for those whose lives have no structure. Probation orders can be challenging and confrontational. Changing long-established patterns of anti-social behaviour is painful. But in order to maintain high standards of supervision and to operate an effective system, work-loads must be manageable. At present, in my view, they are not.

Mr Cowdry's report implies that there is a split in the probation service between those who feel that welfare needs are paramount and those who feel that control takes precedence. In my experience, the majority of probation officers believe that addressing welfare needs is a natural part of the "package" of probation which deals not simply with the offending behaviour but also with why someone offends. In this sense the skill of the probation officers lies in their handling of the balance of "care" and "control".

Yours faithfully,
CAROL FISHER,
(Probation officer),
Inner London Probation Service,
191a Askew Road, W12.

Aids message

From the Director of Family

& Youth Concern

Sir, Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Aids debate, another wave of hysteria breaks upon the shore.

The Aids lobby, which now constitutes a considerable bureaucracy, depends for its government funding upon the perception of Aids as a major public health threat. Hence the widespread publicity given to the doubling of supposedly heterosexual cases last year.

However, the numbers are so tiny as to be statistically insignificant. Of the 240 cases attributed to heterosexual intercourse (still only 6.3 per cent of the total), 77 per cent were of known exposure abroad. This still leaves Aids as a very minor problem compared with, say, heart disease or cancer. Yet Sir David Cox is still telling MPs (report, October 25) to expect a heterosexual explosion, and

Housing for students

From Mrs G. Wylie

Sir, University entrance has risen this year by 6 per cent — available university accommodation has not. Many young people are enduring temporary billets or are travelling from digs which can be miles from their campuses. It is not a helpful way to start living away from home.

If payment of housing benefit is judged to be right for someone living on a low income, why withhold it from someone who is living on an equally low income, and who has no choice but to live away from home?

Until it was withdrawn this term, entitlement to housing benefit had been a significant factor in moving second-year students out of university halls and subsidised housing and into the private sector, although this greater independence was bought at higher cost, as rents must be paid throughout the holidays.

In some university towns there is no such thing as a "low rent" — even for sub-standard housing. Accommodation officers are in for a real headache, and the lottery faced by 18-year-old first-years is likely to worsen.

Yours faithfully,
G. WYLIE,
4 Holt Gardens,
Rowlands Castle, Hampshire.

Lane from New Jersey to New York carries 65,800 in the three-hour morning peak, which is greater than the 60,300 carried by the two port authority trans-Hudson rail lines over the same corridor.

Again, while modern trams can run up to 50 mph, buses can be faster. On the guided busway in Adelaide, buses achieve 62.5 mph, where they have the same advantage of a segregated alignment. More realistic are the average speeds. While the Docklands Light Railway achieves an average speed of 19 mph on the Tower Gateway to Island Gardens section, the Adelaide guided busway achieves an average speed of 28 mph from its outer end to the centre of Adelaide.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS JOLLY,
Clare Hall, Chapel Lane,
Chigwell, Essex,
October 18.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

predicts that heterosexual cases will outnumber homosexual ones within five years. Those with long memories will recall that Sir David chaired the committee which warned the DHSS in 1988 that by the end of 1992 there would be 17,000 Aids deaths.

The Cox report's findings have twice been revised downwards, and the estimated number of deaths by the end of 1993 was given earlier this year as 6,380. Even this figure will almost certainly be too high.

Your medical correspondent would do well to treat further predictions from this source with a degree of healthy scepticism, instead of describing those who question Aids scare as "ignorant" ("Aids: this time send the right message", October 17).

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES, Director,
Family & Youth Concern,
Wicken,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Mobile posters

From Mr E. M. Davies

Sir, The Town and Country Planning Act 1947 removed the blight of advertising hoardings from the countryside. The benefit of this can be appreciated when one visits the USA or countries in Europe where they still exist.

Today, however, the disfigurement of our environment is once again with us in the form of commercial vehicles painted in vivid colours and emblazoned with over-sized letters.

Yesterday I saw a very large lorry painted a dazzling white with four-foot letters in crimson advertising a brand of potato crisps and another, painted orange, with a cartoon of a squashed lemon and a message covering its entire side.

These vehicles are becoming mobile posters and are defacing the intentions of the original act.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN M. DAVIES,
31 Castle Street,
Farnham, Surrey,
October 24.

A new forest

From Mr David W. Lloyd

Sir, Bernard Levin (October 22) cannot have studied very closely the map of the area over which it is intended to plant a forest, since he wonders which is its "most romantic or charming village name". If he had, he would have discovered Ashby de la Zouch (albeit a town).

If the forest were so named, it would surely become known as "A-Z Forest".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. LLOYD,
17 Fore Street,
Old Harlow, Essex.

Clamper clamped?

From Mr Roger FitzGerald

Sir I have just observed one of the Metropolitan Police's wheel-clamping vans, illegally parked, left unattended for at least 15 minutes in London's West End.

Your recent photograph (October 24) of a clamped milk-delivery float suggests that nobody is immune from this device, and I wonder what course of action I should have taken. (Is there, for instance, scope within the law for a "citizen's clamp"?)

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FITZGERALD,
124 Pepps Road, SE14,
October 29.

Radar dowser seeks profits in the pipeline

New Yorkers were treated to an unusual sight during the summer — a man pushing up and down Manhattan what appeared to be a lawnmower with a television perched on its handle. He is not a demented gardener: the machine is a sophisticated radar device and the man is searching for buried pipes. The radar does the probing and displays its findings on the screen.

The public companies which own the pipes know, of course, where they are buried. The idea is to see whether the radar — known as a ground probing radar (GPR) — can pinpoint them accurately. So far, says Dr Richard Chignell, the Surrey physicist who has been developing the device, the machine has a percentage success rate in the high nineties.

GPR is different from the traditional radar which locates and calculates the distance of an object, usually a ship or an aircraft, by bouncing electromagnetic waves off it and timing their return. If one simply took a conventional radar and turned it upside down to look into the earth, the results would be very disappointing Dr Chignell says.

Sub-surface objects would not be discernable because they would be masked by the massive reflection from the Earth's surface. Added to that, the Earth is made up of very absorbent material which drains energy from the radiation as it passes through to find the buried objects.

Ground probing radar overcomes this by using high-speed electronics to sepa-

A probe invented to find mines in the Falklands has won American funds, Malcolm Brown writes

rate in time the two signals, one from the air-ground interface and one from the object.

The development of GPR was given impetus by the Falklands conflict. Dr Chignell, who had been involved in research on GPR in a desultory way in the early Eighties, suddenly found himself catapulted to prominence when, in 1984, he became the leader of a research project, funded by the Ministry of Defence, aimed at seeing whether it was possible to find the plastic mines left by the Argentines. Metallic mines are easy to find with metal detectors. Modern armies have, therefore, turned to plastics which are invisible to conventional detectors. There were about 20,000 mines of nine different kinds laid in 115 minefields on the Falklands.

Dr Chignell went to the islands to collect data on the mines, using the radar to build up a cross-section of each mine type. In the final trials, carried out in the Scottish borders in April 1986, the radar had 100 per cent success.

Dr Chignell submitted plans for clearance of the Falklands but two weeks later his champion, the secretary of state for defence, Michael Heseltine, resigned. This effectively killed the project. Dr

Chignell, who was at the time working for ERA Technology — formerly the Electrical Research Association — decided to go it alone. In January 1987 he started EMRAD, based at Surrey university's science park, to develop the technology for civilian use.

If the radar could be taught to "see" buried plastic mines on the Falklands it could equally well be trained to detect objects such as plastic gas pipes, clay sewers, the different strata of materials such as the earth, concrete and bitumen used to build roads.

Scientists in America and Japan are also working on GPR and, in Britain, British Gas is testing a pipe locating system. All the experts agree that the greatest problem for GPR is to locate objects in clay, which absorbs a great deal of the radiation. Dr Chignell, whose company employs seven people who work from a small starter unit on the Surrey university's research park, says he has overcome this difficulty.

EMRAD's first product, a plastic pipe location device, is being funded by Americans, and will be sold there. The radar has been on trial in the US for 18 months and spent most of the summer in New York. Dr Chignell expects to build 50 machines, costing about £16,000, for the United States next year but believes the ground probing radar market is no different from the air radar market. "I see a potential for everything from simple hand-held radars that are equivalent to the sort of thing you put on your weekend boat, through to sophisticated military systems," he says.



Divine invention: Dr Chignell and his ground probe

Third world offers cheap expert staff

Less developed countries, which have an abundance of qualified graduates but restricted employment prospects, are offering systems development at lower rates to British companies that want to reduce IT expenditure and staff costs.

This trend will put further pressure on the jobs market, as more British firms take advantage of the offshore capabilities being offered by some countries. Eastern European and African companies are joining places such as India in providing local expertise to British companies.

India has given the lead as many large businesses, from London Underground to Britannia Building Society, are having systems developed at a hefty discount to the cost of British competitors. Egypt is the latest country to have been selected for offshore systems development. The London-based subsidiary of the Credit Suisse bank, for example, has announced plans to create a technical facility in Egypt to undertake software development projects.

A number of areas were examined including countries in southern Europe. The north African state was selected as it offered an excess supply of technically qualified graduates and an open-door policy towards foreign investment.

Eastern bloc countries are also seeking to capitalise on the trend. Hungary is keen to promote itself to British companies. Ervin Kovacs, the director of the Hungarian state-owned software house Szamalk, says there are about 20,000 information technology staff in Hungary keen to offer their services abroad in exchange for foreign currency.

Computer services companies are open to the proposal as they seek to become more profitable in the face of the UK downturn. "There is an increasing need to examine these opportunities and, rather than just Hungary, there is also Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the USSR also has potential," Tony Lewis, a director of the Computing Services Association, says.

"But it is a slow process and firms have to become familiar with the idea. Systems specifications have to be done

over here for the coding to take place offshore. Firms have to weigh the cost of developing the specification against the savings."

Closer to home, Ireland is emerging as another alternative to developing systems in-house. Companies are attracted by many factors, including the financial inducements the government is offering. Companies are liable only for 10 per cent corporate tax until 2010 and are paid £6,000 to £10,000 per job created, with half the fee payable immediately and the rest after 12 months if the job still exists, John Gorman, the director of the Irish Industrial Development Authority (IDA), says.

The IDA estimates there are 300 IT companies in Ireland. Salaries for IT staff are about 20 per cent lower than in the UK and office rents are much cheaper.

Norwich Union, Oracle and Electronic Data Systems are some of the companies to have announced plans to open software development centres there. ICL has a software development centre in Dublin and expects to employ more than 100 staff by 1992.

Many firms also see the move as one of the most effective means of overcoming the problem of declining numbers of school leavers and graduates in the United Kingdom. Most large American computer manufacturers have plants in Ireland and are heavily involved in research and development. They are increasingly taking on original design projects, as opposed to assembling systems designed in the United States.

These developments are increasing the opportunities for engineers and scientists as well as software engineers. Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) has been in Ireland for 20 years and employs more than 1,700 staff at its three manufacturing and software development centres. DEC is hiring scientists in diverse areas such as thermal dynamics as it expands its engineering design operations.

LESLIE TILLEY

Beetles make rainforest record

The Creator, it has been said, must have had an inordinate taste for beetles. There are 9,000 species of bird in the world and 4,000 mammals, but the known beetle species already total 350,000 and that is certainly a gross underestimate.

A new field study centre being built in the tropical rainforest of Brunei is certain to add to those numbers. The Royal Geographical Society and the University of Brunel recently signed an agreement to set up the centre in unspoilt rainforest in Temburong.

This weekend Carnoia Prebble, the project's administrator, leaves Britain for Brunei to start setting up the centre, which will be used by more than 50 scientists led by Lord Cranbrook, a biologist,

Brunei is to be invaded by scientists on the lookout for wildlife success stories

in a 15-month programme of work due to start in January 1991.

They will find all the beetles they could possibly want. During a recent visit to Brunei, Nigel Stork, of the Natural History Museum, one of the project's scientific supervisors, discovered 400 species of beetle in just one tree.

Research suggests that the canopy of each species of tropical tree contains 100 to 200 species of beetle peculiar to it. With 50,000 species of tropical tree, that gives a total of between five and ten million species of canopy beetle alone.

So far, it is thought that no more than about one fifteenth of the plants and creatures of the rainforest have been identified and named. The old urge to list and catalogue the species which motivated Victorian collectors has given way to a different emphasis, that of understanding how they relate to one another and the rainforest.

Nick Mawdsley, of the Natural History Museum, will be examining how insect species change from tree to tree, and Ruth Levy, of St Cross College Oxford, will be looking at ants.

The government of Brunei sees the new study centre as a "university of the rainforest".

It will consist of half a dozen wooden buildings containing a laboratory and computer room, a mess, and accommodation.

Up to 35 scientists will be able to live there at any time. The site is about two hours from the town of Bonga by road and longboat, but the rainforest is pristine. "There are not many rainforests in the world left like that," Ms Prebble says.

The money for the buildings comes from Brunei, while the expedition is being supported by corporate sponsors. Of the £480,000 needed, £150,000 has been found from GreenCard Charitable Trust, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Royal Brunei Airlines, with the rest still to be raised.

NIGEL HAWKES



Pristine condition: Brunei has untouched rainforest

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HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Before North Sea gas, which is free of carbon monoxide, replaced coal gas, poisoning by gas was both a favoured means of committing suicide and a frequent cause of accidental death. Even now, more than 1,000 deaths a year in England and Wales are caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is colourless, tasteless, non-irritating, and, when pure, odourless. Poisoning from the gas is ubiquitous, with cases occurring in the factory, in the home, in young people's ramshackle flats, possibly even in the army. Now that British soldiers are preparing again for gas warfare, they should remember that one of the more remote hazards of the first world war was the accumulated carbon monoxide fumes from the rapid firing of Lewis machine guns in gas-proof gun pits.

In more peaceful circum-

Dose of blocked flue

stances, night watchmen who take their braziers into their huts, and drivers of old bangers with leaking exhausts, are much-quoted victims. In reality, the danger is much more important to the tens of thousands of householders who daily risk their sanity and lives by using casually installed, and badly maintained, gas appliances.

Few people realise that, although North Sea gas does not initially contain carbon monoxide, it can be produced if there is

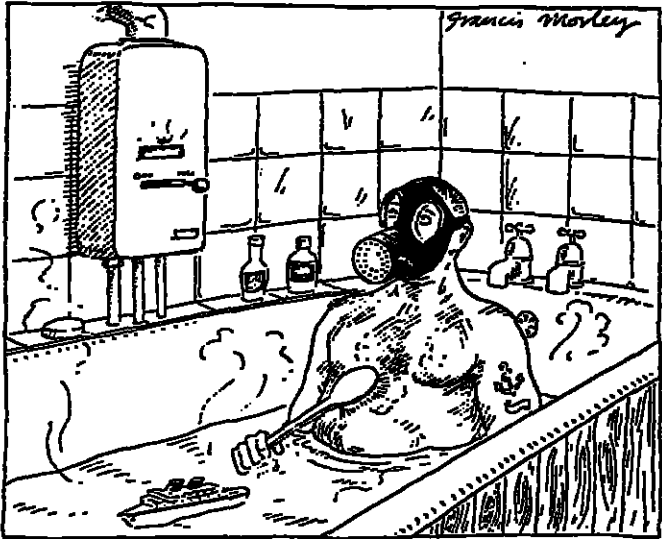
incomplete combustion. This can arise when an appliance is poorly maintained or its air supply is restricted; for example, when someone soaks in a hot bath fed by a gas geyser, and with the bathroom ventilation hole stuffed with an old towel, or when they sit by blazing gas logs in a room that has had all draughts excluded.

A report in the *British Medical Journal* by doctors Rudy Crawford, David Campbell and John Ross, from Aberdeen, reminds doctors of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, and the difficulties its diagnosis can cause. The doctors quote the plight of an Aberdeenshire family who had a badly installed and under-maintained gas boiler.

A grandmother, aged 84, was the first to suffer. Her repeated lapses into unconsciousness and her deteriorating mental condition were, despite periodic admissions to hospital, attributed to minor strokes. The true cause was realised only when 12 members of the family were discovered scattered around the house, suffering from varying depths of unconsciousness.

Most cases of chronic poisoning will, it is hoped, be diagnosed before the patient turns salmon pink and lapses into unconsciousness. Minor degrees of carbon monoxide poisoning provide a wide variety of vague symptoms: headaches, muscle weakness, dizziness, breathlessness, and an intellectual deterioration accompanied by a poor memory.

A clue to inadequate combustion may be given if an appliance has a floppy, yellow flame as a result of a blocked flue or an inadequate air intake.



Season of exotic danger

Scattered among the denizens of the waiting room at a sexually transmitted disease clinic there are always a few well-tanned faces. In the summer they belong to returning holiday-makers from the Mediterranean, but by the autumn a change can be noticed and the sunburnt are obviously more opulent than the average inner city patient. The season of trips to exotic places has begun and the casualties of the night life are trickling in for treatment.

Dr C.J. Ellis, a consultant in Birmingham, has written to the *British Medical Journal* to point out the relative risks of catching Aids while on holiday abroad. By the end of last August, more than three times as many people had caught Aids from heterosexual sex while overseas than in this country. This year, an overseas traveller is ten times more likely to die of Aids caught abroad than from malaria.

These figures are only a fraction of those who will have caught HIV, and who will later succumb to Aids. The situation can only get worse. Bangkok and Rio de Janeiro, and the other sex cities of the Far East and South America, are now prepared to acknowledge there is a problem, and that the epidemic already apocalyptic in Africa is spreading to them.

Dr Ellis estimates that the casual sexual partners of some of his patients who undertake short contracts in African countries

have a 50 per cent chance of being HIV positive. He adds another dire warning: many European cities have more cases of Aids than we do.

The cheerful holidaymakers returning from Spain may soon start to be victims of a disease more sinister than the usual non-specific urethritis and thrush.



Taking the water

The Prince of Wales, in taking the waters at Glastonbury at the weekend, was embracing a custom popular in the 18th and parts of the 19th centuries. At that time, the rich were able to afford spa treatment and to follow the strict regimen at Bath, Harrogate, Droitwich or Euxton. A rest from too much food and drink, unremitting parties and strange women doubtless improved their physique, and the exercise time in the pool was a valuable means of loosening stiffened

joints; but the water they drank, if it was ingested, was quite valueless except for a slight laxative quality. At Droitwich, the water is similar to that of the brine in the Dead Sea and undrinkable. Water has been drunk from time to time from holy wells at Glastonbury, Walsingham and a host of other places of pilgrimage, but the restorative power of these waters, if any, is mystical rather than medical. Dr John Popert, a rheumatologist in the Worcester and Droitwich area, says: "No medical virtue has ever been shown in drinking strange waters and Droitwich water would choke anybody. The value of spa treatments lies in the physiotherapy and hydrotherapy they provide. Droitwich pool is filled with brine from 200ft below which is so strong that it supports the patient. It is warm, so the patient has supported exercise therapy and heat treatment all at the same time."



Beware of the bull?

SURESH KARANDA

More people are giving up meat for health reasons. Can we really live without it, should we? Ann Kent reports



One man's meat has always been another man's poison. In the past, most vegetarians turned their back on animal products for moral reasons: they believed that taking life in order to eat was cruel and unnecessary. But a more self-interested group is joining the vegetarian ranks.

Their dietary change has been prompted by fears for their own welfare, fuelled by reports about antibiotic and pesticide residues in meat and the possibility of catching bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The new, selfish vegetarian may also believe that eating meat will contribute to the risk of heart disease and cancer.

In a Gallup poll published last April, 43 per cent of those questioned claimed to have reduced their meat consumption. Ten per cent said they were now either vegetarian or were avoiding red meat. The poll was carried out in January, just before a BSE scare.

According to Greg Sams, the inventor of the Vegetarian, who commissioned the Gallup poll: "In the past, people were vegetarians because they disliked the killing of animals. The trend has now moved towards self-interest. People feel healthier when they give up meat - they have more energy, sleep better, have less sinus trouble."

Surveys similar to Gallup's have been conducted since 1984, but this was the first to cite health as the main reason for the abandonment of meat eating.

The public perception that meat is bad for you has damaged red meat, particularly lamb and beef, are continuing to decline in popularity, while there is a big increase in the consumption of poultry. But are the fears of the selfish vegetarian justified, and is his or her diet really healthier?

A report from the Meat and Livestock Commission and the Health Education Authority (HEA) points out that poultry eaten with the skin on contains two or three times as much fat as lean red meat. The report, "Meat, Diet and Health", emphasises the high nutrient content of red meat - particularly in the form of protein, the B vitamins, iron and other trace elements - and is particularly concerned to correct any impression that red meat is intrinsically high in fat. Pork, regarded by many people as a fatty meat, has the lowest fat content of the red meats, and the lowest proportion of saturated fats.



No bull: beef and lamb are declining in popularity, while poultry and fish are increasing

The commission is in the middle of a £1.3 million "Meat to Live" advertising campaign, which stresses that meat is a rich source of iron, the mineral essential for fitness and energy.

Nevertheless, a number of studies examining the health of vegetarians suggest they have lower blood cholesterol levels, suffer less heart disease and are less likely to succumb to cancer than meat eaters.

But Anne Heugan, a nutritionist with the Coronary Prevention Group, says the health of a vegetarian depends very much on what type of vegetarian he or she is. "If vegetarians are eating plenty of fruit and vegetables and lots of whole grain foods, their diet may well be healthier than average, provided their diet does not depend too much on cheese and milk, which are high in fat. We know that the antioxidants in vegetables have beneficial effects in terms of avoiding cancer and heart disease."

"The problem with the research evidence on the health of vegetarians is there may be other factors at work which have nothing to do with the diet. For example, anyone who takes the trouble to be a vegetarian may be the type of person who is generally more health conscious, more likely to exercise, less likely to smoke."

Although British heart disease rates are high, we do not eat vast amounts of meat compared with

other nations. According to "Meat, Diet and Health", the average Briton eats about 25 per cent less meat than a Frenchman, German or Dane and about 30 per cent less than an American.

Nevertheless, Caroline Hurren, the nutrition officer with the HEA, believes that we eat too much meat, and that meat is not an essential part of the diet. But she adds: "If you give it up, you have to think about how to replace the missing nutrients. Because meat is such an important source of protein, iron, zinc and the B vitamins, we would advise people to keep it in their diets, but to trim the fat off or buy leaner cuts."

Dr Roger Whitehead, the director of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Unit, says that people who cut out meat risk a deficiency in a number of micronutrients, particularly iron. A mixed diet that includes meat is "the biological norm" for mankind, and ideally one meal containing red meat should be eaten every day.

"If we had a large number of people moving towards vegetarianism without giving care and attention to their diet, we could expect a rise in nutritional disorders such as anaemia and zinc and magnesium deficiency," Dr Whitehead says.

Professor Michael Crawford, the director of the Institute of

Brain Chemistry in Hackney, east London, believes that the ideal diet would be similar to that eaten in Japan and Mediterranean countries, containing much more fish, cereals and vegetables than is consumed in Britain, but still including meat. "The Japanese have the highest longevity in the world, and they also look younger than westerners, while heart disease rates are much lower in Mediterranean countries," he says.

Many people appear to be substituting fish for red meat in their diet. According to the Sea Fish Industry Authority, fish consumption has been increasing steadily over the past three years. Fish is an excellent source of easily digested animal protein, and it is rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, which are said to give protection against heart disease. Fish also contains zinc and iron, although generally in lower quantities than red meat.

Concerns about meat provide opportunities for retailers who are prepared to move with the times. Michael Wilby, a butcher in the market town of Diss in Norfolk, offers customers a range of lean meats, including low-fat, home-made sausages and beefburgers. "We are able to tell our customers where we get the meat, show them what it looks like on the bone, and talk about the safety aspects," he says. "If butchers are struggling, it is because they are not changing with the market."

Yin and yang have lost their point

Acupuncture forgets the past and makes a stab for scientific acceptance

ACUPUNCTURE has come a long way since the days of yin and yang in ancient China. This week it arrived at the sharp end of Harley Street.

The British Medical Acupuncture Society was celebrating its tenth anniversary there amid a warm glow of respectability. There was even a hint of scientific credibility.

While anybody can put up a brass nameplate and start jabbing with disposable needles costing £8 per 100, the society represents all that is clinically clean. Its 650 members are all medically qualified doctors, dentists, or in a few cases, veterinary surgeons. They hold scientific meetings, encourage research, organise training courses and publish their own journal twice a year. But, for their chagrin, they also are rather lost in a haystack of thousands of other practitioners with less than perfect pedigrees.

"We are opposed to unfounded therapeutic claims for acupuncture and the prac-

tice of it by people lacking a medical background," says Dr Paul Marcus, the chairman of the society. "In Britain, unlike most other European countries, anyone can set up as an acupuncturist. We believe it is time for stricter controls."

He says acupuncture should be carried out only by, or under the close supervision of, medically qualified practitioners who are accountable to the General Medical Council. This would open them to disciplinary proceedings. The society also wants acupuncturists to have professional training in anatomy and physiology, and the ability to diagnose and treat diseases with a range of other techniques. Practitioners should undertake not to use acupuncture in the treatment of a serious disease, such as cancer, for which it has no benefit, but instead ensure that the patient gets proper treatment.

Without such controls, the unsuspecting patient may become a pincushion, paying about £25 for a session that may do nothing more than improve a charlatan's target practice. Dr Marcus recalls an outbreak of septic arthritis in a group of elderly patients who had shared not only the same acupuncturist, but the same needle.

Although acupuncture has been used for at least 5,000 years, its practitioners still yearn for a scientific embrace. To win it, they may have to find a better explanation for the original Chinese concept on which their discipline is founded. This holds that imaginary lines called meridians link the body's surface with the internal organs. Along these lines are about 1,000 acupuncture points. Needles inserted into them can reach the body's negative and positive forces, yin and yang. "I don't think many of

us believe in yin and yang any more, if we ever did," says Dr Sumi Liyanage, a consultant rheumatologist and member of the society. "Acupuncture does have a scientific basis. The trouble is getting well-conducted studies."

Recent research shows,

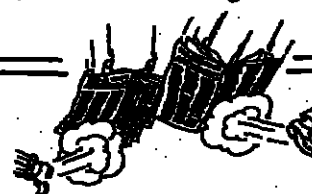
however, that the meridians are closely related to the structure of the central nervous system, Dr Liyanage says.

Acupuncture can stimulate the production of the body's pain-killing chemicals and block pain signals to the brain.

"It is not a panacea, but it is effective in treating many conditions, from backache to constipation," Dr Liyanage says. "And it deserves a place alongside conventional western medicine."

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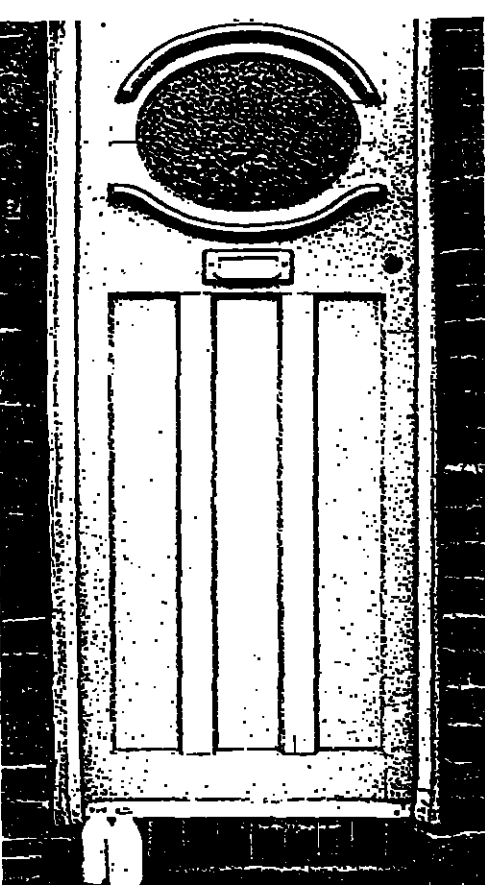
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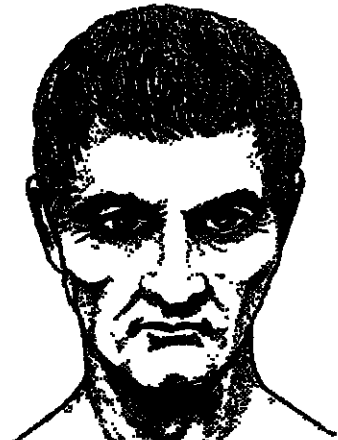
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Harrods

Titter ye not, O Aves Spinae

A CLASSICAL education, as everyone knows, equips you for anything. Indeed, one 19th-century doctor argued that reciting Demosthenes was a splendid means of strengthening the chest. Readers of *The First Man in Rome*, however, will need more than rock-hard pectorals to grapple with *Thorn Birds* McCullough's new 800-page blockbuster. While a small hoist could come in handy simply to negotiate the pages (the book is almost cubic), nothing less than a serious piece of prose-moving equipment is needed to get through the story.

McCullough's tale spans the Rome of 110-100BC, when the hick from the sticks, Marius, with no senatorial background anywhere in his family, lays another



axe to the roots of the republican system that had sustained that extraordinary city for some 400 years. First, he encouraged in his army a new intensity of loyalty to its general, rather than the state; and second, he tore up the constitution by allowing himself to be appointed consul no fewer than seven times, five of those in succession. Historians argue about the precise importance of Marius' life. But he unquestionably reinforced those precedents that ultimately generated Pompey,

Crassus, and Caesar, the dynasty who, by turning the Republic into an arena in which to fulfil their own personal ambitions, destroyed it, and paved the way for the principate, rule by one man, the *princeps* — Augustus. Many a fledgling African state can tell a similar story.

Now this is a rich theme, and the steaming kedge of Roman politics — not to mention the fact that everyone seems to be called Publius, Marcus, Claudius and Metellus — ensures that it is a mighty complex one, too. In normal circumstances this would not matter. The problem is not so much that Ms McCullough has fallen hopelessly in love with it all (quite right too), and plans no fewer than four more volumes in which to take the story from Marius down to Augustus (nor even that the man on the front cover looks like Frankie Howard); it is that she is quite bereft of cultural imagination.

HISTORICALS

Peter Jones

THE FIRST MAN IN ROME

By Colleen McCullough
Century, £14.95

Here the Numidian leader, Jugurtha, who had already spent some years in Rome, is led through the Forum to be incarcerated and die. "At last he would see it, the centre of the world, just as in the olden days the Acropolis had been the centre of the world [I suppose she means Athens, but perhaps an African potentate would not know the difference]. And then he set eyes on it, the Forum Romanum [why the Latin?], and was hugely disappointed. The buildings were little and old, and they didn't face a logical way, for they were all skewed to the north, where the Forum itself was oriented north-west to southeast; the overall effect was slipshod, and the whole place wore an air of dilapidation... little round temple of Vesta (pretty)... lofty temple of Castor and Pollux... Domic austerity of the temple of Saturn."

IT IS clear what has happened. Ms McCullough has a huge box-file labelled "Forum", and she is not going to discard one word of it. The fact that Jugurtha must have seen the Forum hundreds of times, let alone the likelihood of a man in his position essaying a brief architectural critique at this of all moments, is irrelevant. Unable to absorb information about the past into her creative imagination, McCullough resorts instead to dumping inert sack-loads of it over the plot; and so laboured is her handling of story-line, that characters are forced into propping up the action by writing long letters to each other that read like rather ill-digested sixth-form ancient history essays. But filing-cabinets are not literature. The 100-page index that accompanies the work, with its glossary of technical terms, maps, and guides to pronunciation (*pilum*: pee-loom) reinforces the point. This, she says, is evidence of her "scholarship"; but who cares about her "scholarship"? She is writing a novel, not a text-book (and she thinks that a *Jellator* trumates and vice-versa, which does not give one much confidence in her "scholarship" either).

The whole book, in fact, reads like a massive Latin primer in which assorted Romans get up, see the slaves, put on their togas, go into the Forum, admire the baths, hear the poets, and visit the gardens, while the queen sends the letters. Given its complexity, it must say something for McCullough that she staggers through the story at all; and her desire to get the "facts" right is commendable. But her cultural imagination is sterile, and the finished product a dead weight.



QUINTUS LUTATIUS CATULUS



John Updike, Homer of the angst and absurd confusions and sad heroism of the middling American hero of our middling times

Down the rabbit-hole

Michael Wright in the warren of dark symbolism of an American Odysseus

What the hell, we're all just human, bodies with brains at one end and the rest just plumbing. Ah, but such plumbing. One of the peculiar pleasures of this fat blue tome, the final instalment in John Updike's *Rabbit* quartet, is the gloopy relish with which the author treats the squelchily biological side of life. And that doesn't just mean sex. Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, ex-basketball hero, semi-retired Toyota salesman, and overweight amateur golfer, is fading; his plumbing is spectacularly shot to pieces. While plenty of authors write incisively about the heart, few actually get stuck in there with a scalpel. Here, Rabbit's "heart" is no knot of slushy emotions, but a gunged-up muscle that throbs like a twitching fist, and his dance to its desperate beat keeps the novel's lifeblood pumping gloriously.

Rabbit's insides are "like the sea to him, dark and wet and full of things he doesn't want to think about". He is a kind of mid-American Ulysses, his day-to-day life a tricky voyage over the hostile waters of his own body. Beside this grand struggle, the main "action" of the novel — the exposure and straightening out of Rabbit's junkie son, Nelson, and (even harder) the entertainment of his grandchildren — at first seems marginal. Yet, as Updike gently weaves his (utterly convincing) fiction into the (curiously unreal)

warp of the Eighties, a telling pattern emerges. Nelson's cocaine addiction drains the family business of capital. Rabbit's addiction to sodium-loaded munchies drains his vital organ of life, and the folly of both Angstroms provides a metaphor for the Eighties themselves: "Everything falling apart, airplanes, bridges, eight years under Reagan of no-body minding the store, making money out of nothing, trusting in God."

Rabbit, like America, suffers, not just from a dicky ticker, but from chronic hubris. Signing a cheque in Valhalla Village, "he feels like a god casually despatching thunderbolts". So perhaps we should see him as a crumbly Wotan rather than as Ulysses. Either way, he is a splendidly vivid protagonist, a wheezy old set of bagpipes still grinding out a tune, and brimming with such palpable life that new readers need have no fear of feeling alienated.

The present-tense narrative is dense but easy-going. Spattered with dollops of stream-of-consciousness, the quirky sensuality of the language (to say nothing of the growly chauvinistic

generalisations he makes) alerts us to the fact that we are seeing the world largely through Rabbit's eyes. This is fun, since Updike has endowed the old rogue with a faux-poetic talent for expressing his singular observations, which are at once acute and obtuse: a nurse, for example, has hair "like oodles of black noodles or packets of small fire-crackers". Gradually, as the narrative progresses, the imagery and sensual details seem to lose some of their vitality, but criticism is largely disarmed by Rabbit's admission that "ever since they poked that catheter in, there's been something drained about his emotional responses".

"That catheter" was inserted into his groin and steered over various tubes, before being inflated near his heart to crack away some of the plaque on his plumbing. Ugh. Rabbit is invited to watch the sickening process on a television screen, in a light parody of the invasive sensationalism of television. He himself is hooked on the media, and when his wife comes to discuss their son's crisis, he would prefer to watch the box. "Somehow he can't believe that

what Janice is trying to tell him ranks with the national news." Updike must have worked fast because his references to films and factual events are surprisingly up to date, making the novel's satire doubly dark, glittering and abrasive, like a sheet of coarse-grained emery paper. The Lockerbie disaster, for example, with its bodies "tumbling down like wet melon seeds" is a leitmotif running through the novel, filling Rabbit with morbid curiosity. He knows that he himself is "falling, helplessly falling towards death", and a sense of doom hangs over him from the outset, when he stands in the "crypt-like" terminal of a Florida airport. So when, finally, he is close to death, there is a cool propriety in the circular desk of the intensive care unit being "like an airport control tower". The novel brims with cyclic processes, from the exquisite descriptions of the effects of the seasons to the wheeling of the planets in their spheres. Doom is tinged with optimism: "The carnal rule shoulders with the cosmic, and it works."

Like Mr Shimada, the Toyota bigwig who finally comes to withdraw the franchise from the family car business, the novel is like a bean-bag filled to the corners with backshot. It may be tightly packed, but it's surprisingly comfortable, and a worthy place for Rabbit to come to rest. Rabbit is dead; long live Rabbit.

RABBIT AT REST

By John Updike
André Deutsch, £14.99

England seen as bedlam

Hugh Barnes

STARES

By Roy Fuller
Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.95

ROY FULLER'S *Stares*, his first novel for 20 years, could hardly be more insubstantial. It tells the story of a handful of eccentrics who suffer mild agonies in the course of rehearsing a play. Only the setting comes as a surprise. The action takes place inside a lunatic asylum which has the wispy, unreal quality of abstraction. From the beginning, in fact, the eponymous hospital resembles one of those literary never-lands designed to allow fugitives to "discover" their true selves. Fuller's characters walk around the grounds, chat about this and that, and bump into each other in upstairs corridors. After 30 or 40 pages of this routine you can't help wondering just who these people are and what, if anything, is going to happen.

In many ways, the charm of the novel is that the characters appear to be wondering the same thing. The play's the thing that does the trick. The theatrical genre is brought to the hospital by William Toynce, a second-rate actor who conceives a plan to produce *The Seagull*, casting his fellow-patients in the various roles. The story of how he ended up at Stares surfaces in flashbacks of a tragic homosexual affair. More flashbacks reveal the other case histories in his amateur troupe. The plotting cannot be faulted. Fuller offers a cautionary tale of the insidious dangers of acting. Whereas Chekhov's genius, however, arises from the logic of character, the inhabitants of *Stares* are no more than their established tics and opinions, oddball verging on cute, and almost interchangeable.

The conjunction of fictional and real-life characters wreaks havoc on the novel's dialogue. People are forever saying things like "Being here is rather like being in a play". At different times different characters quote different extracts from *The Seagull* and ask, "Do you believe that?" at which point, of course, everybody chips in.

What dates the novel a bit is a kind of literary allusiveness, rather hard to justify nowadays. The trouble with novels whose characters discuss other novels, or plays, or poems, is that they run the risk of too much name-dropping. Fuller cannot stop himself ticking the register of classic works in which the play-acting motif occurs. So we get tiresome references to *Hamlet*, *Man and Superman*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Stares is not by any means a satisfying novel, but its flaws are compelling, and it manages to unsettle the reader in a way. The relative lack of moral tension should not obscure the fact that Fuller is trying to do something terribly difficult here. He wants us to accept the lunatic asylum as a microcosm of England as a whole, a country in which nobody is well. Uneasy symbolism of this kind works better in poetry than in prose. It may just be that Roy Fuller's novelistic skills are a little rusty after 20 years in which he has confined his output to verse.

Nightmare of our inferno

Jasper Rees

A PRAYER FOR KATERINA HOROVITZOVA

By Arnost Lustig
Translated by Jeanne Némecová
Quartet, £12.95

ON THE EVE OF UNCERTAIN TOMORROWS

By Neil Bissoondath
Bloomsbury, £14.99

DIRTY FAXES AND OTHER STORIES

By Andrew Davies
Methuen, £13.99

THE OLD MAN AND MRS SMITH

By Peter Ustinov
Michael O'Mara, £13.95

SINCE Primo Levi's autobiographical magnum opus, the Nazi death camps have never lost their fictional usefulness, even. God forbid, providing ballast for Kirk Douglas's recently published bed/gas chamber pot-boiler. In *A Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova*, first published in the novelist's native Czech in 1973, Auschwitz survivor Arnost Lustig returns devastatingly to Levi's apocalyptic territory.

The novel has the hard and fast simplicity of a parable. A young girl arrives with her doomed family at a vast death factory. Katerina Horovitzova is saved by a Jewish-American who, along with several other affluent businessmen, has fallen into Nazi hands, but is to be shipped home as part of a prisoner exchange. On request she is permitted to accompany them, which has the look of a humanitarian gesture, until it emerges that the Americans' urbane Nazi escort, who regularly demands money from their well-stocked Swiss bank accounts as each new travel complication arises, contrives to profit by her presence, too. Comprehensively fleeced, they end up you know where.

The world Lustig has recreated is a pure vision of the inferno, in which every detail carries its share of meaning. Katerina herself is an immaculate characterisation of pallid innocence adrift in the dark, though the fact that she is also a dancer, slight but sinuous, a body as well as a soul, gives her a further symbolic dimension. Confined to the passive role of a supplicant while life still beckons, she turns in a compellingly active final performance once it no longer does. Kirk Douglas should stick to the silver screen.

On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows, Neil Bissoondath's affecting second collection of short stories, is largely about those who have managed to reach North America, where the new life continues to be perilous, undignified, and not necessarily worth the trip. In the

title story, a group of refugees wait to learn whether the government will grant them asylum. In "Cracks and Keyholes", an immigrant earns his keep wiping floors and tables in a strip joint. There are several stories that are not specifically about West Indian or Latin American no-hopers creating new space for themselves in Canada, but even when he tells of a salesman who pathetically takes up smoking to curry favour with a fellow night-class student, Bissoondath's theme is displacement, being on foreign terrain, looking for the exit door from a lonely existence. If his prose tends to be languorous, at times overworked, it is no different from his usually likeable characters.

Andrew Davies's short stories are quite the reverse — terse, abrupt, and more often than not about sex. One's initial impression is that *Dirty Faxes* and *Other Stories* betrays a lack of imaginative effort. Several of the short stories are about short story writers, a couple of them rebuttal screenplays originally delivered to and filmed by the BBC, and

another pair behave in the clever-clever manner patented by David Lodge, needlessly turning out to be stories within stories.

But there are gems here, too. Most of them reliant for their effects on laughing at other people's discomfort, be it the impotent despair of the programmer whose computer system has been infected by a raiding virus, or the misery of the scriptwriter who can only research the lot of the tramp by becoming one. The dirty faxes of the title are abusive x-rated messages that antagonistically spew forth into the home of an upright writer. Davies's own message seems to be that a writer must be anything but uptight, and these bits and pieces of narrative find him on a fitfully entertaining mission to demonstrate how uprightness can be avoided.

In *The Old Man and Mr Smith*, God and the Devil pay a visit to Earth to check up on the progress of the human race in the late 20th century. It hardly needs stating that this is a big subject, but if it is worth having Peter Ustinov at the helm, it is because the comic possibilities are as substantial as the philosophical ones. Although they could not be more incompatible, Ustinov attempts them both, and gives himself no choice but to botch the job. His conclusion seems to be that we live in a funny old world. We do, but Kirk Douglas could have told us that.

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ARTS

An examination of what lies behind the Royal Shakespeare Company's temporary abandonment of London from this weekend

Backcloth and ashes won't do

There are two dramatically opposing views of the four-and-a-half-month closure of the Barbican Theatre that starts on Saturday. One is that the good ship Royal Shakespeare Company has been sabotaged by a dastardly Arts Council. The other is that its own officers are scuttling her in a crazed display of vindictive defiance. The truth is probably less sensational. Yes, the company has some cause for complaint. No, it surely was not necessary to shutter its London home — and the RSC may be seeking to manipulate public and political opinion by doing so.

Thirty years after its creation, there is no need to justify the RSC either as one of the nation's vital resources or as part of London's cultural geography. The company has had its downs as well as its ups, its *Carries* and dreary *Moscow Golds* as well as its *Wars of the Roses* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. It has and has not fulfilled its two primary objectives as defined by its departing chief executive, Terry Hands. Over-elaborate direction has sometimes left critics wondering if, as he claims, "the text and the actor are the primary means of communication with the public". But again and again the company has magnificently proved that "Shakespeare is the greatest living playwright".

Moreover, it has nurtured the best and brightest talent: from Judi Dench in the 1960s to John Wood in the 1970s; from Antony Sher in the 1980s to Simon Russell Beale, the star of what is, as it happens, a particularly fine season in Stratford now. But such performers would not have stayed for long with the company if it had not promised them transfers to London. Without a metropolitan base, it cannot groom the major actors of tomorrow.

That is one reason why the RSC cannot retreat permanently to fortress Stratford, as it threatens to do if it does not get a large increase in its grant next year. In any such Domesday scenario, it would do better to abandon the cosy Cotswolds for London, where the best actors, directors and audiences are, and send its better productions to tour the nation. This is, in fact, an option that the RSC has surreptitiously pondered in the past. But has Domesday really come? Was it even necessary temporarily to shut the Barbican?

The RSC continues to proclaim to the world that it receives less in state support, both in hard cash and as a percentage of income, than its main rival. It gets £6.05

**Chief drama critic
Benedict Nightingale
asks whether the
RSC has adequately
explored the
alternatives to a
damaging absence
from London**

million in "base subsidy" to run four theatres in two towns — five, assuming the Other Place re-opens in Stratford next year — while the National gets £8.9 million for three under one roof. Again, the RSC keeps repeating that a Cabinet Office scrutiny of its finances in 1983 described it as underfunded. Where (it obsessively asks) is the extra £5.7 million it would have received if the report's recommendations had been adopted?

Well, no doubt the Arts Council should get more from the Treasury, and the RSC more from the

**'I could have put
on a repertoire of
potboilers: we
might have got
another 10 or 15
per cent at the
box office'**

TERRY HANDS

Arts Council. But this is Britain in the economically troubled 1990s, not Germany, not Sweden, not even Britain in the 1960s. Any organisation must adapt to Darwinian realities; and if that means the RSC contracting, compromising, or otherwise changing in order to survive at the Barbican, then that is what it must do — and should have done.

Consider the figures. By keeping the Barbican dark, the RSC says it will save £2.4 million in costs and lose £1.1 million in income. Thus it prevents its deficit rising from £3 to more than £4 million. But this seems based on pessimistic forecasting. If the company achieved the 75 per cent audiences

it did in 1989-90, when it took nearly £4 million at the Barbican box-office, it would have made more between early November and mid-March than £1.1 million. And if Hands had offered a more popular programme before then, income could — by his own admission — have significantly risen.

"I could have put on a repertoire of potboilers," he said last week. "I could have brought in Donald Sinden in *Private Lives*, done a musical like *Shogun*, and revived my own *Much Ado About Nothing* or Bill Alexander's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, and we might have got another 10 or 15 per cent at the box office." Suppose such a season continued through the autumn, and ended with a longish re-run of the RSC's successful *Peter Pan* or *Wizard of Oz*. Suppose Hands chose to expose the company's financial problems, and save it an annual £150,000, by closing the Pit, as Peter Hall once closed the Cottesloe. Suddenly the saving made by withdrawing entirely from the Barbican begins to look less impressive.

Instead, the RSC chose to bring to the Barbican and Pit two revivals and four new plays, among them Breton and Ali's *Moscow Gold*, an expensive production of a theatrical tribute to President Gorbachev that has found favour with neither critics nor public. The intention was obviously to signal that there would be no artistic surrender at the RSC. If the company once agreed to become a money-making travesty of itself, the thinking went, it might find itself doomed to remain one. Its paymasters could argue that it survived nicely enough at its present level of subsidy. And better dead than blind, or so the RSC's current philosophy seems to be.

But the dilemma, though real, is not so clear-cut. Moreover, such an argument begs questions. Does temporary compromise ensure permanent compromise — and what is compromise, anyway? The company needs to look hard at its new-play policy, for instance. Politically combative work is not always exciting, challenging work, nor are defiantly uncommercial plays necessarily worthwhile. Witness *Moscow Gold* or the silly *Dream of People*, now at the Pit.

Right: percentage increases in the wage bill (top line), and retail price index (middle), related to the RSC's Arts Council subsidy, with 1984/5 as base year



Must the foyers go dark? The RSC has been at the Barbican since 1982, providing an important part of London's cultural geography

Hands's own recent *Coriolanus*, with the bankable Charles Dance, was more stimulating than either. The same might even be said for Coward's scurrilous *Private Lives*, at least without Joan Collins in it. Adrian Noble, who succeeds Hands next year, believes as

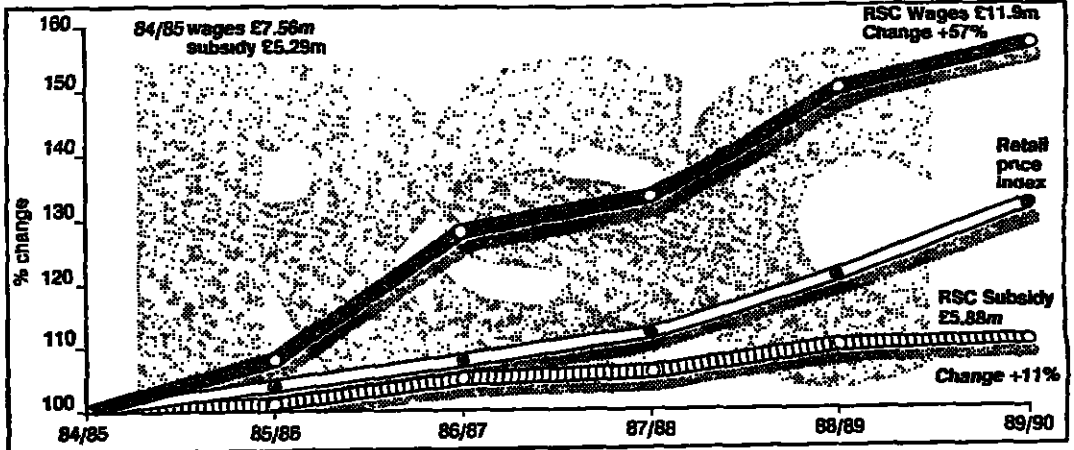
strongly as his predecessors that the company's classic work is invigorated by some immersion in modern plays. But he has indicated that he will choose these more carefully. And while he and his colleagues are unlikely to want to make radical changes to a

company and repertoire system with proven strengths, they must surely also use their honeymoon period for unromantic self-examination.

Agreed, the RSC's 700-strong force of actors and support-staff is barely larger than in 1983 and has

rather more to do. Is there still room for trimming? Agreed, the company should make full use of its performers, casting each in as many plays as talent and energy can manage. Is it really possible to create, revive or sustain 40 good productions a year? Agreed, a budget of £110,000 for a major show is not big by West End standards — but isn't this a time when actors rather than décor should be providing the visual excitement?

The Arts Council is now finishing a report on the RSC, and no doubt it will address many such questions. For what it is worth, the word is that it is unlikely to be highly critical. But it surely cannot duck certain conclusions. Cuts are painful and usually to be avoided, but they can invariably be made, somewhere. If a company is determined to stay alive, it will do so, somehow. If the RSC wants to remain in London, it will remain there.



Three decades of peaks and troughs

Jim Hiley chronicles some of the most famous successes, disasters and financial débâcles in the RSC's history

1960 Peter Hall takes over as artistic director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. Rebuilds stage. Opens London base at the Aldwych. Expands programme to include new plays and non-Shakespearean classics. Doubles the company's output and company size.

1961 Shakespeare Memorial Theatre company becomes the Royal Shakespeare Company. Previously self-supporting operation goes into loss. Negotiations begin for subsidy from the Arts Council.

1962 RSC rejects amalgamation with the emergent National Theatre, after three years of private discussions. Hall threatens to leave Aldwych if subsidy is not forthcoming. Twenty-four productions in 12 months include Peter Brook's *King Lear*, with Paul Scofield.

1963 RSC receives £47,000 from Arts Council: told not to expect future support "at National Theatre level". The *Wars of the Roses* cycle establishes anti-heroic ensemble style. Hall collapses at rehearsal; carried to Henry VI's funeral bier.

1963-64 Theatre of Cruelty experimental season: includes spectacle of Glenda Jackson stripping naked during sketch production *Jackie Kennedy* with Christine Keeler.

1964 Peter Brook's *Marat/Sade*. Impresario and RSC governor Emile Littler publicly denounces "dirty plays".

1965 City of London Court of Common Council decides to build theatre, to be leased to the RSC, in planned Barbican arts centre: completion expected 1970.

1966 Financial crisis: only one new production at Stratford. After troubled start, Trevor Nunn's RSC career blossoms with *The Revenger's Tragedy*, performed on set of *Hamlet*.

1967 Hall told opening of Barbican will be delayed until 1972. Resigns.

1968 Trevor Nunn succeeds Hall. Confesses that he cannot read a balance sheet. Leads company to record deficit.

1969 Acting strength trimmed. Nunn increases number of productions transferred from Stratford, establishing future pattern.

1970 Peter Brook sets *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream in gymnasium-cum-circus: on opening night, receives standing ovation at the interval. Helps RSC to its first-ever surplus. During the following decade, move to the Barbican repeatedly postponed.

1971 Season of small-scale projects at The Place Theatre, near Euston.

1972 Nunn announces linked productions of Shakespeare's Roman plays. Senior colleagues dissent from project. Nunn directs all four plays himself. Stratford stage rebuilt, with new hydraulic machinery. The *Sunday Times* describes effect of subsequent "miniature earthquakes". Playwrights John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy picket production of their Arthurian epic, *The Island of the Mighty*, accusing the company of "imperialism". Trevor Nunn describes RSC as "left-wing". Tory MP Angus Maude resigns from the board of governors.

1973 Second season at The Place. Peter Hall succeeds Laurence Olivier as director of the National Theatre.

1974 The Other Place opens in Stratford as a regular home for studio productions: 140 seats installed in tin hut previously used for rehearsals. At the insistence of the Arts Council, The Other Place is "self-financing".

1975 Austerity: in Terry Hands' *Henry*

V, starring Alan Howard, the English army consists of seven men. By such measures, RSC achieves surplus of £79k.

1977 RSC opens second small venue at the Warehouse, Covent Garden. Arts Council demurs over further expansion. Hands tells Peter Hall he will resign from the RSC and join the National. Nunn invites Hands to remain at the RSC as joint artistic director: Hands accepts. The *A Comedy of Errors* wins Society of West End Theatre award: Best Musical.

1978 RSC gains its first commercial sponsorship: Hallmark Cards contributes £12,000 to small-scale tour of 26 towns.

1980 Theatrical marathons in vogue: John Barton directs cycle of ten plays. The Greeks, and David Edgar scripts eight-hour version of *Nicholas Nickleby*. Trevor Nunn takes "holiday" to direct *Cats*.

1982 RSC moves into the Barbican Centre, occupying the main theatre and a studio space. The Pit. Legally bound to stay until the year 2007, at an annual rent of £500,000. Opens with both parts of *Henry IV*, directed by Nunn. Actors complain of subterranean working conditions: one halts a performance at The Pit because of sweltering heat. The cramped conditions of the Aldwych are now remembered fondly.

1983 Government-commissioned report by Clive Prestley describes RSC as efficient and underfunded. Recommends that subsidy should cover 41 per cent of costs.

1984 Arts Council increases grant in line with Prestley: fails to match inflation in subsequent years. Trevor Nunn takes sabbatical. Disgruntled actors rumoured to have written to the BBC, asking sarcastically to meet Nunn on Jim's Fix It.

1985 *Les Misérables* at the Barbican. Transfers to the West End and is produced worldwide. Currently generates £1m a year for the company. *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* enjoys similar success, on smaller scale and without the music.

1986 Terry Hands takes sole charge as artistic director and chief executive. The quasi-Jacobean

Swan Theatre opens in Stratford, thanks to gift of £1.6 million from a befitful American, Frederick R. Koch. Badly attended London season includes lesser-known Feydeau farces. Deficit of £1.2 million looms as audiences dip to 47 per cent of capacity. Hands decides to "expand our way out of trouble" by staging 41 productions in the following year. RSC wins Queen's Award for Export.

1987 Record-breaking sponsorship by Royal Insurance announced, worth £1.1 million over three years. Productions from the Swan transfer to the sabbatical Mermaid Theatre in London.

1988 Hands' production of *Carrie* opens to poor reviews and packed houses. Loses its leading lady, Barbara Cook, on the way to Broadway. Closes after five performances, but RSC earns £250,000. Cutbacks in company size and number of productions. RSC leaves the Mermaid.

April 1989 Terry Hands says he will quit his post in 1991. In review of *Hands' Romeo and Juliet*, The *Sunday Times* refers to the "RSC — the Really Frightful Company".

July 1989 Luke Fitterer, secretary general of the Arts Council, denies allegation that withdrawal of subsidy from the RSC is being considered. Arts Council grant now meets 27 per cent of company's costs.

September 1989

The Other Place closes for rebuilding after run of Trevor Nunn's *Othello*, with Willard White and Ian McKellen. RSC associate director Adrian Noble tells The *Times* that most of his colleagues "hate" the Barbican.

November 1989

Noble gives up associate directorship.

February 8 1990

Hands announces closure of London operation for four months from November, to avoid deficit reaching £4.7m by 1991. But this drastic move will save only £1.3m.

February 14 1990

Adrian Noble appointed successor to Hands. His supporting triumvirate comprises Michael Ardenborough and RSC stalwarts David Brierley and Genista McIntosh.

May 24 1990

Royal Insurance sponsorship renewed for a further 3 years, worth £2.1 million.

July 27 1990

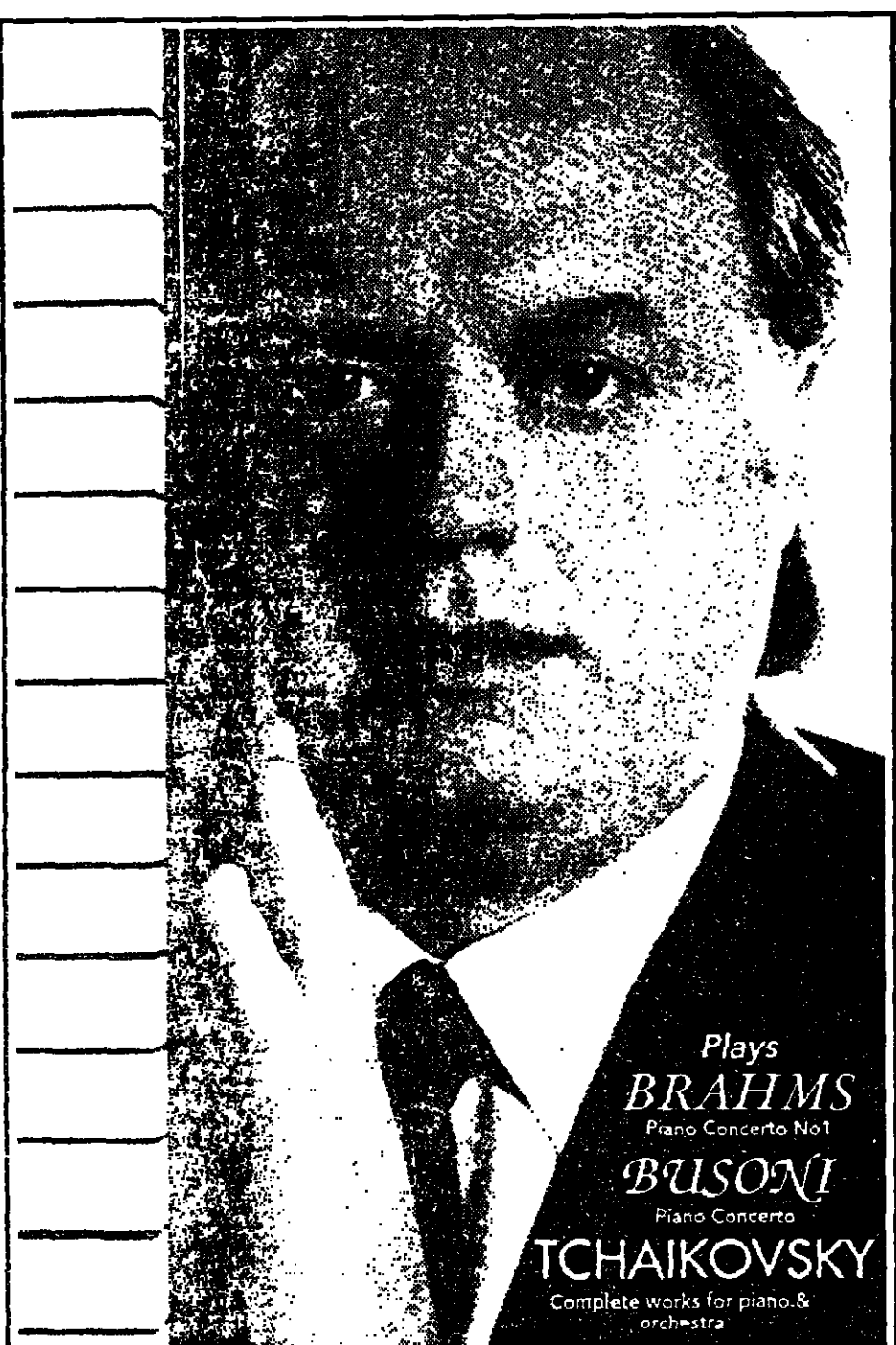
First body-blow to Noble: McIntosh joins the National.

October 28 1990

Hands says RSC may be forced to quit London altogether. 11 per cent increase in grant is "too little, too late". RSC will retreat to Stratford unless subsidy rises next year by £3.7 million to £9.9 million.

November 3 1990

Hands says the closing words of *Singer*: "This is a theatre, in which there's always so much else to say. If we had all night. And another day." RSC leaves the Barbican.



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ARTS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Comic larceny by the Godfather

Reviews of *The Freshman*, *Love at Large*, *Bullseye!*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Young Guns II* — *Blaze of Glory* and *Kid*, by David Robinson

Playground sculptures

MILLFIELD School, that exclusive establishment in Somerset, has announced that it is aiming to turn its 100-acre site into a "giant sculpture park". This week it launched its 1991 Sculpture Commission: a contest for young sculptors. The winner will receive £6,000 to create a sculpture on the school site, joining the two already created in the last year. "We are not frightened of things that are controversial or challenging," promises Len Green, Millfield's head of art.

High and low

THE much-debated question of whether Rosina in Rossini's *Barber of Seville* is best sung by a mezzo or a soprano is answered with an elegant compromise by the Royal Opera: try both. For one series of Covent Garden performances (opening on Friday), Rosina will be sung by fiery Greek mezzo, Agnes Baltsa. Two weeks later, she is followed by the Czech soprano, Edita Gruberova.

Dear Mikhail

WHEN Mustertin, the holding company which owned publishers Phaidon, went into receivership last month, one casualty was the Edinburgh company, Canongate. It was an especially bitter blow to Canongate's managing director, Stephanie Wolfe Murray, who had conceived what promised to be her company's greatest coup to date: an anthology of letters titled *Dear Mr Gorbachev*... written to the Nobel Prize winner by the great, good and ordinary from round the world. Happily, Wolfe Murray has been able to organise a management buy-out of her own former company, the presses are rolling again, and the book is to be launched at the Soviet Embassy on November 22.

Last chance...

SPANISH sculptor Eduardo Chillida was already a talent to celebrate 20 years ago. But at least the delay in celebrating has been amply rewarded by the retrospective on show at the Hayward Gallery, which finishes on Sunday (071-921 0880). The exhibition charts Chillida's development from 1954 to the present, with numerous pieces which were not too heavy, or too firmly anchored to their sites, to be brought to London. A splendid maturity is seen in his most recent works, and it is clear that Chillida, now 66, is still working with undiminished energy and invention.

Andrew Bergman is a clever comedy writer (his credits include *Blazing Saddles*) and a director with a quick, crisp style. Even so, *The Freshman* (PG, Odeon Leicester Square) might have passed by as just another eccentric comedy, but for Marlon Brando. Brando, when he puts his heart into it, is still a great actor; and here he shows what a great actor can do with even the lightest of comedy.

The freshman of the title is Matthew Broderick — a stylish comedy player himself — who arrives from Vermont to enrol in New York University film department. In no time, through a series of bizarre accidents, he is recruited and virtually adopted by Brando, the Godfather of Hester Street.

He finds himself involved in smuggling animals of endangered species, to grace the tables of a decadent dining club that prefers its meats rare in every sense. Meanwhile his stepfather, an animal rights fanatic, sets the FBI on to his erring ward.

While the extravagance of the plot escalates, Brando holds rock steady, a massive, slow, imperious pachyderm. At first his offbeat dicta and seeming failure to grasp what other people say appear like senility. Gradually it becomes clear that on the contrary this is power, his technique of overriding the thoughts and wills of others, to impose his own.

His wrinkled eyes stare into some vague distance, and he has a ruminative habit of running his tongue around his lower teeth. In public life he appears as a gentle old Italian with a crushed hat and his own table in the back-street espresso bar. In private he is a prince, with a mansion fortress in Queens, New York, the "Mona Lisa" on his wall (he left the Louvre a fake in exchange), and a daughter who is Harvard-bound (he has the nation's educational establishment in his gift).

The supporting cast is suitably bizarre, with Maximilian Schell as a cookery enthusiast with a private zoo-cum-abattoir and an oriental catamite. Paul Benedict, as Broderick's tutor, lampoons the pretensions of film academics. The humans are run close by a despicable giant lizard entrusted to Broderick's care.

This is the comic side of

GoodFellas. A scene of the old Don strolling through his little kingdom, acknowledging the tribute of the shopkeepers and passers-by, neatly captures the ancient Mafia tradition that underlies the college freshman is another poor kid that needs a helping hand: he looks around Broderick's college room and murmurs, politely concealing his scorn, "I didn't miss nothing."

Those who found *GoodFellas* immoral might well be still more affronted by *The Freshman*, in which the hoods end up vindicated as the best of fellows. But comedy has a lot of licence if it is funny enough.

Another eccentric comedy, *Love at Large* (15 Cannon Oxford Street, Odeon Manchester), parodies the private-eye movie. It begins in time-honoured fashion with a beautiful femme fatale (Anne Archer) seeking the services of the shabby private detective hero (Tom Berenger).

The trouble is that the shtetl lady is not very good at describing people, with the result that Berenger spends most of the film tailing the wrong man, who fortunately turns out much more interesting.

Again the convolutions of the unlikely plot are less important than the gallery of off-centre and bemused characters who figure in it. Alan Rudolph (*Choose Me, Trouble in Mind, The Moderns*) relishes human oddity: "The characters in my films are like people I see around me every day. It's reality that's bizarre."

Rudolph is a romantic farceur. The characters in his films all yearn for love. The trouble is that they fall in love with the wrong people, or with too many people at the same time, or reject love when it is offered, out of sheer panic. "The first time we've touched," Berenger tenderly growls when the girl in prospect lands him a knock-out slap.

Berenger is full of surprises: this messy detective, who spills drinks on his clothes and bumps into things, is an authentic comic creation. He is nicely partnered by Elizabeth Perkins as an enthusiastic tyro detective set on his own tail by his insanely jealous girlfriend. The permanent rain of Portland, Oregon, adds to the

distinctive mood of this enjoyable amorous quadrille.

Yet another crime comedy, Michael Winner's *Bullseye!* (15, Warner West End, Odeon Marble Arch) establishes a record for garrulity. The tormented plot is regularly explained in great detail; the dialogue is non-stop, with a juvenile taste in *doubles entendres*; and there is the redundant voice-over without which, since *Alfie*, no Michael Caine film is complete.

Caine and Roger Moore play a team of con-men who happen to be spitting images of two top-brass traitors to Britain's nuclear programme. After that it can only get sillier, and for most of its length the film is simply non-stop, frantic chase. The novelty of the film is that it is practically all shot on London and Scottish locations, but that is small compensation.

Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale* (18, Odeon Haymarket) developed the intriguing premise that American far-right, puritanical, Bible-based fundamentalism could, with the minimal modification, become the philosophy for a totalitarian system as brutal as Hitler created.

Volker Schlöndorff's disappointing film adaptation, scripted by Harold Pinter, describes a bleak near-future America. Ethnic minorities have been eliminated and the few still-fertile women in a massively irradiated world are marshalled as an army of "handmaidens": breeding machines assigned to be impregnated by the privileged "Commanders". Behind the social hypocrisy corruption flourishes, while outside the cities a violent civil war rages.

There are some good ideas: the aristocracy of ladies in blue two-pieces and pearl necklaces; the neo-ecclesiastical rituals that accompany barbaric public executions; or Robert Duvall, excellent as always, solemnly performing the rites of sexual impregnation whilst wearing a go-to-church waistcoat.

Mostly, though, the film is weighed down with humourless pretension. The visualisation of the future has none of the style and invention of a *Metropolis* or a *Clockwork Orange*. The dialogue is stilted rather than stylised, both in writing and delivery. The story



Stealing the picture: Marlon Brando uses Matthew Broderick as a shield in *The Freshman*

leaves too many nagging inconsistencies. Underlying all is a sense that the feminist viewpoint of the original book has become tainted with a degree of male voyeurism.

Billy the Kid, most filmed of all Western legends, rides again in *Young Guns II* — *Blaze of Glory* (12, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea). This is a sequel to the original brat-pack Western, chronicling Billy's rise to fame and ride to death, following the Lincoln County War, which was the subject of *Young Guns*. There is indeed so much cross-reference that without precise recollection of the first film, it is difficult to follow the relationships between the characters.

The plot line is minimal, mainly Billy's attempted flight to Mexico with the remnants of his outlaws, pursued by Pat Garrett, one-time friend turned sheriff. In the hands of the New Zealand director Geoff Murphy, the action — which is most of the film — is better handled than in the predecessor. Emilio Estevez's callous and pathological Billy, though, is more unattractive than ever.

The film adopts the framing device of a nonagenarian who rides out of the desert in 1950, claiming to be Billy the Kid himself. Since the writer-producer John Fusco prides himself on historical accuracy, the incident is probably based on fact.

Kid (18, Prince Charles, Cannon Oxford Street) is a modern reworking of a favourite Western formula. A mysterious silent stranger arrives (on the Greyhound bus) in a nasty little town, bent on vengeance against the men who murdered his parents years before.

The sweetness of revenge is one of the more pernicious pleasures exploited by movies. The avenger in this case is another brat-pack star, Thomas C. Howell, who is required to contribute little more to the role than baleful looks and a purposeful walk through the main street. The director was John Mark Robinson, a graduate from rock videos.

CINEMA: FINANCE

Breaking up for the sake of the kids

Brent Walker is selling off Goldcrest Films but retaining Elstree Studios. Andrew Lycett looks at the implications for British cinema

Tucked away at the bottom of this week's stories about the financial restructuring of leisure group Brent Walker is important news for the future of Britain's down-at-heel film industry. Brent Walker is selling its Goldcrest film library, production and distribution subsidiary, once this country's white hope in the movie business, to a management buyout led by John Quesada, best known for producing the Joan Collins film, *The Stud*.

Goldcrest was acquired by Brent Walker in 1987 when, after its swift rise to international status in the first half of the decade with films such as *Chariots of Fire*, it was beginning to falter with expensive flops such as *Revolution* and *Absolute Beginners*. At the time Brent Walker, headed by George Walker (a former porter in Billingsgate fish market), harboured ambitions to become a global media company. In the same year it paid £33 million to buy the historic Elstree film studios, another piece of British film history, which was owned by the troubled Cannon group, headed by Israeli cousins Yoram Globus and Menahem Golan.

Brent Walker immediately put in an application to redevelop Elstree — a prime 27-acre site adjacent to the M25. The local Hertsmere Borough Council insisted that planning permission depended on Elstree remaining a film studio. By this year, Brent Walker was having second thoughts about developing a classic integrated media company, with a studio (Elstree), a production company (Goldcrest) and

two of its other interests — a top London facilities houses (Roger Cherrill) for post-production cutting and editing of films, and three cable television franchises.

In the event it has only been able to find buyers for the core Goldcrest film company. Quesada and his management are paying £17 million for the property, including its library of 72 films — Goldcrest classics such as *The Mission*, *Gandhi* and *The Killing Fields*. A further £2 million may be due, depending on the success of the recent Goldcrest cartoon production, *All Dogs Go to*

Heaven. This film, made by the Dublin-based animator Don Bluth, proved a moderate hit at the box-office earlier this year. But it has jumped to number one in the United States video charts, and Goldcrest expects that it will have sold four million video units "by Christmas".

Terry Lott, editor of the newsletter *Screen Finance* and co-author of a book on Goldcrest, says the newly lived-off production company has "as good a chance of success as any other independent film company in Britain". That is not a particularly

hopeful forecast, but Lott says that Goldcrest has managed to invest \$55 million (£28.2 million) over the past year in films such as *All Dogs Go to Heaven* and the Rosanna Arquette vehicle, *Black Rainbow*. It currently has another Don Bluth cartoon film, *Rock-a-Doodle*, in production. Goldcrest claims that it intends to stay in feature film production on an international basis.

More concern is voiced in the film industry about the future of what remained in Brent Walker, particularly Elstree. By an agreeable coincidence, Brent Walker was yesterday on the point of signing the final legal documents which will legitimise Hertsmere Borough Council's outline planning permission, granted earlier this month, for the redevelopment of Elstree. The company intends to refurbish the film studio and, more controversially, to build a shopping complex, complete with Tesco superstore, offices, petrol station, public house, restaurant, bars and, just so we remember where we are, a multiplex cinema and film museum.

Objectors argue that this means Elstree has become just a property lot. But Barry Chattington, managing director of the Brent Walker division responsible for the studios, says significant sums have already been spent upgrading its facilities. Four new stages are to be built, together with new post-production facilities. By the middle of next year, he hopes Elstree will be able to entice back the big American companies which made *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* there in the 1980s.



Recent Goldcrest success: *All Dogs Go to Heaven*

TELEVISION

Not much cause for complacency

NOT the best of television nights for those who would like to think that they live in a racially tolerant society. While *Dispatches* spent an hour on Channel 4 reconstructing with actors the industrial tribunal which on Tuesday found an Asian police constable to have been unlawfully discriminated against for promotion, *Timewatch* on BBC 2 reconstructed the expulsion of the Jews from England 700 years ago today.

Both programmes were superbly made and equally terrifying. What *Dispatches* uncovered was not just one isolated instance, where 19 out of 20 white officers got into the CID while all three blacks applying at the same time and with the same credentials got rejected. It also alleged that racial prejudice runs through the force, so that the word *coon* becomes a term of normal description rather than abuse, at least in the ears of the white officers.

Throughout a cool courtroom

debate, officer after officer would testify that police culture dictates the use of derogatory jokes about racial origin and colour and that this was not, as might have been hoped, some isolated case of conspiracy or peculiar circumstances. It is just that all blacks in the force get treated the same way — appallingly. The police have just started to spend a great deal of money on commercials recruiting black and Asian officers: the allegations in *Dispatches* are likely to prove expensive to counteract.

Up in Yorkshire, Christopher Andrew was telling an equally cautionary tale about anti-Semitism in *Timewatch*. It would seem that the English more or less invented it back in 1190 when 150 Jews burned themselves to death in York to avoid being murdered or compulsorily baptised. The old cathedral towns of Norwich and Lincoln were also early bastions of persecution, largely because most

of their non-Jewish residents were deeply in debt to Jews and saw conflagration as an alternative to repayment. A hundred years after the mass suicides in York, the English became the first nation to throw them all out, thereby setting the pattern for mass expulsions.

Those viewers in full flight from revelations of local intolerance had nowhere much to go beyond prison: after BBC 2's *The Sentence* on Tuesday, an investigation of life at Glen Parva, the largest institution for young offenders in Europe, came last night's *Without Walls*. This is the new arts strand on Channel 4, which has already provided some splendid new series and is now setting up a survey on design, which will run in the new year with Paul Royle.

As a trailer, he offered, "The Thing is... Prisons", a look at the architecture of clinks from Pentonville through to the brand-new Belmarsh in Woolwich, which resembled nothing so much

as a trendy desirable Docklands housing estate for left-over yuppies. Letters to the editor will doubtless even now be in the post about the architect who told Morley "we don't want to ram home the fact that these chaps are being detained," while even the most docile of poll-tax payers may be wondering about the two-lane brickwork and the calming garden and the desire to erect "humane and reasonable buildings with an urban feel to them".

Morley tends self-consciously to send up his own pieces to camera even while he is delivering them, but he is reassuringly willing to let the camera linger on his blank features while he tries to think of something useful to say to it. In the end his interviewees did most of the thinking for him. "In your open prison," said one, "you get your freedom of movement, your hygiene and your better attitude."

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (CIC, 18) Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone. Tom Cruise gives a performance of great strength as paraplegic Ron Kovic, the All-American boy turned pacifist 1990.

FAMILY BUSINESS (MGM/UA, 15) Sydney Lumet's muted, mood-hooping action caper. Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman and Matthew Broderick, as three generations of a New York family whose business is crime. Sluggish at first, but it steadily improves. 1990.

GREETINGS (Castle, 18): Exuberantly dishonoured comedy from the young Brian De Palma, capturing all the rebellious essence of its time — 1969 — and giving early indications that Robert

De Niro might be an actor to watch.

KISSIN' COUSINS (MGM/UA, U) Elvis Presley, as an airforce officer trying to persuade a hillbilly relative (Elvis again, with blond hair) to sell his homestead to a missile base. Tame despite lunatic plot and 12 songs. 1964.

THE KRAYS (RCA/Columbia, 18) Crippling enquiry into the life and pathology of the East London underworld twins (eerily portrayed by Scarsdale Ballet luminaries Gary and Martin Kemp). Forceful support from Billie Whitelaw as their doting mother. Director, Peter Medak. 1990.

LET'S GET LOST (Palace, 15): Compelling portrait of the late jazz trumpeter Chet Baker, focusing more on his messy, drug-hazed life than his music. Directed by leading fashion photographer Bruce Weber. 1988.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (20 20 vision, 12) Cheap infantile hugely popular comedy about an unmarried mum (Kirstie Alley) her taxi-driving thum (John Travolta) and her talking baby (the voice of Bruce Willis). 1990.

PINK FLAMINGOES (Castle, 18) In which the transvestite Divine's proud claim to be the "fiftiest person alive" comes under attack from two estuary villains. Not quite cinema's finest hour, though a key early film by John Waters, the maestro of bad taste. 1972.

A WORLD APART (Palace, PG): Chris Menges' sharp drama about South African life in the early Sixties, seen through the eyes of a 13-year-old girl with activist parents, better value for money than many other films with a cause. With Barbara Hershey, Jodhi May. 1988.

GEOFF BROWN

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Finding their feet in new home

DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet Gala Hippodrome

BIRMINGHAM gave a great welcome to its new ballet company on Tuesday. A packed gala audience, Princess Margaret there as president, an amazingly florid facade before a highly pompous version of the national anthem (Barry Wordsworth conducting), and a big burst of applause when the curtain went up on Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*.

We already knew how well Birmingham Royal Ballet would dance this from its Sadler's Wells days, but that did not make its dancing any less pleasing, with Miyako Yoshida's limpid performance at the head of a company on its best form.

Next, a premiere by David Bintley on the stage where his first ballet and several of his subsequent pieces had their first performances. *Evilma Handel Variations*, using Edmund Kulkra's orchestration, is a big show-piece of dancing for a company that can put up four leading women of exemplary quality.

This is not an occasion for nitpicking, so let me suppress an impression of unevenness in the choreographic invention and concentrate on the best of it: the playful first duet for Karen Donovan and Michael O'Hare. Sandra Madgwick's aplomb in a somewhat complicated adagio section, Mark Silver's splendid partnering and Yoshida's dancing solo, and the grace and charm of Mireille Bourgeois and Kevin O'Hare.

There was still another premiere to come, this company's first performance of *Jazz: Calendar*, not seen at all for many a year. How well Richard Rodney Bennett's bright colourful music,



Ravenna Tucker in *Jazz: Calendar*: woeful Wednesday tormented by nightmares of monsters

Derek Jarman's matching designs and Ashton's choreography were all performed. The wit and style of the piece are as bright as ever, starting with Monday's Child (Anneke Paen) as a model, and Marion Tait as Tuesday's Child in an allegory of Ashton's own *Moonlight*. Ravenna Tucker, newly transferred from Covent Garden, was woeful Wednesday, with big dark eyes and long dark hair, tormented by nightmares of strange green and black creatures.

Vincent Redmon travelled with cheerful indefatigability through Thursday. Friday could have been a little more loving and giving than Sheryl Kennedy and Kevin O'Hare managed to make it, but the eight male dancers for Saturday, with Alain Dubreuil for their little although grey-haired ballet master, certainly worked hard for their living.

There were thanks at the end from Peter Wright, the company's director, to the royal guest, to the

company's founder — Dame Ninette de Valois, who was also present — to Birmingham, the Hippodrome, and the sponsors, especially Midland Bank and IBM. More remains to be done, especially improving the sight-lines, and the price of the programmes for the opening season is exorbitant. But it was a good start, and now we shall see what happens after the honeymoon.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK

The Grateful Dead Wembley Arena

IN BECOMING not so much a musical spectacle, but more a way of life, The Grateful Dead has turned the norms of rock group performance on their head. For one thing they bring their own audience with them, the so-called Deadheads who will seemingly follow the band anywhere on earth. At Wembley there was a mellow but persistent pandemonium among this euphoric,

predominantly American crowd from the moment that the group wandered on to the stage.

As performers the Dead are strictly of the less is more school. All five permanent members are in their forties, and most of them look older. Drummers Bill Kreutzmann and Mickey Hart sit imperturbably behind their es-carpments of percussion, while in front of them bassist Phil Lesh actually exudes a negative stage presence. The focus of attention is thus entirely on the two singer/guitarists: Bob Weir, a regulation skinny rock 'n' roll frontman with a manly voice and a pony tail, and Jerry Garcia (aka Captain Trips), a

grey, bushy-haired bear of a man with a more weathered vocal tone, acknowledged to be the soul of the band.

The Dead began life at the epicentre of San Francisco's counter-cultural explosion of the Sixties and by all reasonable expectations they should have gone the way of contemporaries such as Quicksilver Messenger Service and Moby Grape. But despite occasional departures and deaths in the ranks the group has flourished, garnering a new generation of devotees and enjoying huge success with the 1987 album, *In the Dark*.

The connotations of the band's

name have always been at odds with the gentle, spontaneous exuberance of its music, a quality borne out by the whimsical chugabooie of "Bertha" and the bluesy strut of "Wang Dang Doodle". "Brown Eyed Woman", Dylan's "Queen Jane" and "Row Jimmy" were highlights of the first half, while a storming "Hell in a Bucket" and the gentle "Foolish Heart" set things rolling in the second section, before the power-chord riffing of "Terrapin Station" gave way to a dual drum solo layered with weird sci-fi sound effects.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THEATRE

The Mystery of Irma Vep Ambassadors

THE theatre would be a more sober but a duller place without the likes of Charles Ludlum — now, alas, the late Charles Ludlum — to stir up its innards with a wand and thwack its pretexts with a fool's bladder. In these pages last Monday, Benedict Nightingale wrote of the "lunatic extravagance of ideas" that marked Ludlum's 20 odd years with the Ridiculous Theatrical Company in its basement theatre in Greenwich Village. Most of those years must have been very odd indeed but only now, three years after his early death, can London audiences catch some flavour of the play that hit the commercial jackpot over there.

Irma Vep is a burlesque Gothic melodrama that hauls together segments of Conan Doyle, Daphne du Maurier and Marie Corelli, tying them up with an exuberantly camp over-acting style that signals

shock and horror with rolling eye and shuddering arm.

A wolf howl, lightning flashes and the curtain draws aside to reveal Lord Edgar's heavily furnished sitting room at Mandacrest. For her wittily atmospheric set, Poppy Mitchell plumps for naturalism instead of farce in all but one respect, this being the portrait of Lady Irma that glows with an eerie light when mention is made of her husband's bride.

The characters include Jane, the ferociously loyal housekeeper, one-legged Nicodemus, Lord Edgar, Lady Enid in bridal white and sundry Egyptians, ancient and modern, in the feeble middle act. As well as Nicholas Grace and Edward Hibbert, the cast lists names six others but we wait in vain for Theda Barera, Brad Breidwhit and the rest to make an appearance because all the roles are played by the quick-changing Grace and Hibbert. The rapid re-entrances through another door are helped by dressing the female characters in long skirts or wrapped in capacious horse blankets, so that many shoes and checked trousers can be kept out of sight beneath them. Even so,

and allowing for the wonder of Velcro, the fast changes in Maria Aitken's production from male to female contribute significantly to the entertainment.

Hibbert's commanding chin, and the wrenching that the monkey-faced Grace subjects his cheeks and mouth to, inevitably fix their looks when in drag, so that they sometimes resemble Margaret Rutherford acting opposite Dame Hilda Bracket. Grace's Egyptian characters are a dead loss, but his dainty Enid, jerking her eyeballs sideways in slow motion, and the farcically-staged transformation of his Nicodemus into a werewolf are enjoyably observed. Even more comical, and dangerously close to the spirit of dead Irma bursts from her.

And yet, for all the pleasures of the first act, and the ingenuity of the ending, a troublesome emptiness spreads at the heart of the show. It may even be that a tackier set might better suit the play's mock-reverent intentions. The evening will seem funnier after the longeurs are forgotten.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Gothic farce: Nicholas Grace in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

NEW RELEASES

♦ **BETTER WEDDINGS** (15): Alan Alda's menial but engaging comedy about one marriage tumbling with Mike Rinkovitch as the future time swayed by conflicting advice. Attractive performances, and a comedy about by Anthony Quinn. Cannon Channel (071-332 5096).
♦ **GOOD FELLAS** (18): Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. Ray Liotta is easily matched by the supporting players. Joe Pesci as a pugacious psychopath, Robert De Niro the most quotable of "good fellas". Cannon Channel (071-332 5096).
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CURRENT

♦ **AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the life and work of the famous Australian writer. A TV mini-series, but featuring cinematic art of the way. Metro (071-437 0157) Rancor (071-437 0157).
♦ **ATLANTIC** (PG): Jean Vigo's enthralling French classic from 1934 — a lyrical, surreal tale of a young couple on a journey of discovery. Rancor (071-437 0157).
♦ **BAD INFLUENCE** (18): Stark and suspenseful psychological thriller chronicling the fortunes of a young neurotic (Liam Neeson) who is seduced by a psychotic (Fionnula Flinn). Cannon Channel (071-332 5096).
♦ **BIRD ON A WIRE** (15): Emily-Henderson's dramatic comedy, with only Mike O'Hare and Goldie Hawn's star power to pull us through it. Cannon Channel (071-332 5096).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceebeef**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer
8.00 **Daytime UK** presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judith Jones in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwave**. Quiz show hosted by Andy Craig
9.25 **Dish of the Day**. Another recipe from Rosemary Moon
9.30 **People Today**. Three mothers-to-be talk about their hopes and fears during pregnancy
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC**, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays which this morning comes from Cardiff
10.15 **The Family News** (r)
10.35 **People Today**. Katie Feslett talks about the art of rag rug making
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs another topical discussion
11.45 **Before Noon**. Adrian Mills and Rona Phillips take viewers' calls and Alan Titchmarsh and Judith Jones introduce their special guest
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After Noon**. John Rosemary Conley's diet and fitness club
12.20 **Scene Today**. Live entertainment from Peckham Hill
12.25 **Regional news** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. Weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceebeef)

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**, with sign language
8.15 **Westminster**. Round up of yesterday's parliamentary business
9.00 **Daytime UK** presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judith Jones in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester
9.45 **France and the French 10.00**. For the very young
10.15 **Teenagers** introduction to the Christian faith
10.35 **Discussion topics** 11.00 **Air pollution** 11.20 **The importance of measurement in science** 11.40 **Maths investigations** 12.05 **Energy from coal** 12.25 **Alternative sources of energy** 12.50 **Science drama** for five and six-year-olds 1.20 **PC Pinkerton** 1.25 **Freeman Sam** 1.40 **How music changes moods**
2.00 **News** and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 **In the Shadow of Fujisan**. See No Evil. How the Japanese monkey and other wild life are increasingly industrial country (r). (Ceebeef)
3.00 **News** and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Call My Bluff**. Another vintage edition of the word game with team leaders Frank Muir and the late Arthur Marshall. The guests are Rob Heyland, Jan Francis, Joan Regan and Rabbi Lionel Blue (r)
4.30 **Fighting Tilt**. Will trade unions exist in the next century? Ken Gill, the general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, talks to Anne Kelleher
5.00 **Play Snooker**. Learning to pot, with Dennis Taylor (r)
5.30 **Clean State** explores the specialised "magical" schools for exceptionally bright children in Wandsworth
6.00 **Film: Rancho Notorious** (1952). CHOICE: After two well-made but traditional Westerns in the Thirties, the German emigre Fritz Lang returned

- 1.50 **Film: The Saboteur**. Code Name "Monteur" (1935, b/w). Marlon Brando, Yul Brynner and Trevor Howard star in a heavy-going second world war drama. A wealthy German pacifist is persuaded by British intelligence to pose as a Gaspard officer to make sure that a ship full of Allied hands. Directed by Bernhard Wicki
3.50 **The Brothels**. Animated series narrated by David Shaw Parker
4.05 **Clockwise**. School teams compete against the clock in mental and physical challenges. Darnley Day keeps an eye on things
4.20 **Fantastic Max**. Cartoon about a boy and his dog
4.35 **Uncle Jack**. And Operation Green. Children's comedy drama serial starring Paul Jones as an eccentric green activist. (Ceebeef)
5.00 **Newsround** 5.05 **Bliss** Peter. With Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan. (Ceebeef)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceebeef)
5.40 **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anne Ford
6.05 **Andrew Harvey**. Weather
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines. Northern Ireland. Neighbours
7.00 **Top of the Pops** introduced by Simon Mayo. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1
7.30 **Eastenders**. Another depressing look at life and the market stalls of London's Albert Square. (Ceebeef)
8.00 **Tomorrow's World**. Howard Stabileford and Kate Bellingham take over the controls of a Harrier jump jet to demonstrate the capabilities of the latest flight simulators that will soon

- be seen in amusement arcades up and down the country
8.30 **Birds of a Feather**. Earthy comedy about two sisters (Pauline Collins and Linda Robson) who are reluctantly involved in getting their husbands released from prison. (Ceebeef)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 **Crimewatch UK**. Nick Ross and Sue Cook report on a recent spate of attempted child abductions in Dorset and Hampshire and appeal for help in catching the perpetrators. They offer advice on protecting young children from danger and look at Kidscope, the Home Office approved scheme which teaches children what to do when approached by strangers. There is also a reconstruction of the unsolved murder of 32-year-old Paul Stevens, whose body was found in the Grand Union Canal in Southall, west London. (Ceebeef)
10.15 **You Cried! Happy Trails**. John Gordon-Sinclair and Tilda Swinton, with veteran American character actor Guy Mitchell, in episode four of John Byrne's mordantly funny and heavily satirical drama about Glasgow's country-and-western scene. (Ceebeef)
11.05 **Question Time** chaired by Peter Sessions. Tonight's guests are Brando Dean, general secretary of Sogat, John Harvey-Jones and MPs Edward Heath and David Blunkett
12.05am **Crimewatch UK Update**. The latest developments in tonight's cases
12.15 **Weather**



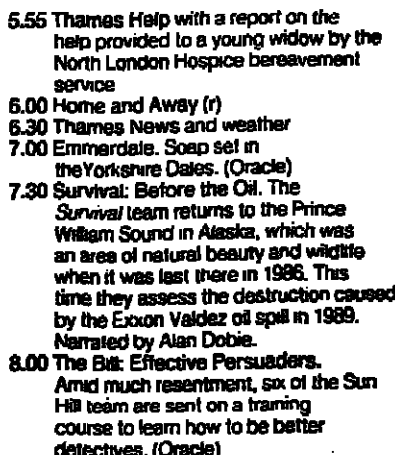
Fun on the run: Marielene Dietrich (8.30pm)

to the genre in the Fifties and came up with one of its most bizarre offerings. The plot, a man avenging his wife's murder, is familiar enough and was recycled by Lang the following year for his fine gangster film, *The Big Heat*. What sets *Rancho Notorious* apart is, first, its dark and brooding atmosphere, a Western film noir, complete with film noir techniques, which abandoned the wide, open spaces for the claustrophobia of the studio. Secondly, echoing his one-time collaboration with Bertolt Brecht, Lang introduced the Brechtian device of a song which provides a commentary on the film and identifies its theme of "hate, murder and revenge". But *Rancho Notorious* offers fun as well, not least in Marielene Dietrich's delicious performance as the former dance-hall singer running a hideout for outlaws
7.30 **First Sight: The End of the Line**. A report by Terry Dignan on homelessness in the Kent seaside resort of Margate. Wales. Open Space. Northern Ireland. Birds of a Feather. England - East. Second Thought. Midlands: The Midlands Report. Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester. Close-Up North. Southampton and Plymouth: Southern Eye. Bristol. Current Account
8.00 **Red Dwarf III**. Cult comedy series. Kryten discovers some amazing developing fluid. Starring Chris

- Barrie, Craig Charles, Ruby Wax and, tonight, Koo Stark (r) (Ceebeef)
8.30 **Top Gear** examines Nissan's takes over from the Bluebird. Presented by William Woolford
9.00 **Rab C Nesbitt**. In the last of the comedy series starring Gregor Fisher as the ranting philosopher, the Nesbitts strut their noseless Glaswegian stuff in *Scotch*
9.30 **40 Minutes: Fit To Drop**. CHOICE: Taking a favourite 40 Minutes theme of people with unusual obsessions, Christopher Terrell's film looks at exercise addiction. The urge to spend every spare moment working out in the gym or on a treadmill is a harmless eccentricity but it has its darker side. Like drunk or drugs, once it gets a hold it is difficult to shake off. The daily "fix" of press-ups and jogging becomes as necessary as the job in the arm or the doctor's visit. Interviewed half a dozen assorted case histories. Terrell reveals a story of strained marriages, physical and emotional damage, and in one instance a life so runned that the victim appears, like a criminal, with her face blacked out. A visit to the United States, where exercise addiction has become a plague of rather less standing, features an interview with Dr Connie Chen, a psychologist and former addict who runs an exercise dependency clinic. (Ceebeef)
10.10 **Smith and Jones in Small Doses**. The *Whole Hog*. Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones in a comic playlet by Graham Garden about a man's reunion with his ex-wife after 10 years (r). (Ceebeef)
10.30 **Newswatch**, with Francine Stock
11.15 **The Late Show**. The best of live jazz, with studio performances from the Stan Tracey Big Band, David Copperfield, David Murray and Lenny Kravitz
12.00 **Fighting Tilt**. See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am**
6.25 **Keynotes**. Game show in which the contestants must link the lyrics with the music
6.55 **Thames News** and weather
7.00 **Emmerdale**. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
7.30 **Survival: Before the Oil**. The Survival team returns to the Prince William Sound in Alaska, which was an area of natural beauty and wildlife when it was last there in 1986. This time they assess the destruction caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. Narrated by Alan Dobie
8.00 **The Bit: Effective Persuaders**. Amid much resentment, six of the Sun Hill team are sent on a training course to learn how to be better detectives. (Oracle)
1.20 **Hot Property**. Judith Chalmers meets the Strachans, who are renovating a medieval castle, and Jim Bowen, who lives in a converted railway station
1.50 **A Country Practice**. Australian medical drama
2.20 **Post Punks & New Trousers**. Includes items on how large women can look smaller and on the changing shape of the male hair cut
2.50 **Talkabout**. Andrew O'Connor hosts another round of the think-on-your-feet game for couples
3.15 **News** headlines
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3.25 **The Young Doctors**
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5.10 **Blockbusters**. Bob Holmes hosts the general knowledge quiz game for teenagers
5.40 **News** with Sue Carpenter. Weather



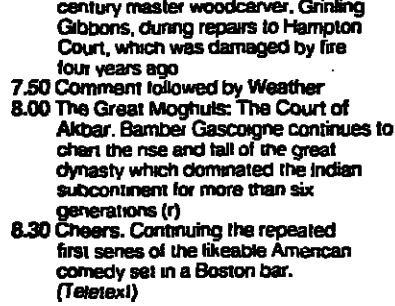
A Spur to the media: Paul Gascoigne (8.30pm)

8.30 **This Week: Gazza Unlimited**. A report on the market and exploitation of the Tottenham Hotspur footballer Paul Gascoigne, who since the World Cup has been a constant target of the tabloid press. With comments from the player himself and other footballers who have had to cope with similar hype
9.00 **Capital City**. Multi-storied big business drama focusing on a bunch of dealers in a London merchant bank. (Oracle)
10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Semvel. Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather
10.40 **The City Programme** reports on the potential upheaval in the television industry. With contributions from Thames Television's Richard Dunn, Leslie Hill of Central and the Virgin Group's Charles Lawson
11.10 **01** includes Phil Daniels reviewing *The Freshman*, starring Marion Brande, and Harriet Harman on *The Handmaid's Tale*, starring Natasha Richardson
11.40 **Prisoner**. Cell Block H. Australian soap set in a women's detention centre. Followed by *News* headlines
12.30am **Contacts**. Trevor Ward and Susy Smith introduce more lonely souls who want to meet other people
1.00 **The Concert**. Wishbone Ash recorded at the Town & Country Club in London. Followed by *News* headlines
2.00 **Film: Don't Drink the Water** (1959). Jackie Gleason and Estelle Parsons in an adaptation of Woody Allen's stage play about a Jewish caterer who is accused of being a spy and takes refuge with his family in an American embassy. Never shown in British cinemas. The film was directed by Howard Morris. Followed by *News* headlines
4.00 **The Invisible Man** (b/w). Identical twins provide Peter Brady with an adventure when one of them disappears (r)
4.30 **America's Top Ten** (r)
5.00 **ITV Morning News** with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00

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5.40 **News** with Sue Carpenter. Weather

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Art of Landscape**. Film of the natural world with soothing music
6.20 **Business Daily**
6.30 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **Time To Talk**. Lesley Judd talks to the comedian and wend leader of the Salvation Army (r)
12.30 **Business Daily**
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 **A Houseful of Plants**. Floella Benjamin and Michael Buerk talk to experts on house and dried flowers and look at an extraordinary collection of plants. Plant doctor Chris Fairweather gives advice. (Teletext)
2.30 **Film: The Emperor Waltz** (1948). Bing Crosby is an American photographer salesman who arrives in 1901 Austria to thrust his wares upon the Emperor Franz Joseph and ends up falling in love with his daughter (Joan Fontaine). A thin vehicle for Crosby and an extraordinary choice for its director, Billy Wilder
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Oprah and her guests discuss the madness surrounding the Nintendo video game which is sweeping across America
5.50 **The Adventures of Tintin**. The animated adventures of Tintin continue on the sister island
6.00 **The Crystal Maze: Rocky Horror**. Show creator Richard O'Brien guides contestants through the tricky adventure game show (r)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Nicholas Owen and Zohrab Badawiy. Includes a report from Nick Glass on the attempt to recreate the work of the 17th



Susie Woodlridge and Jim Carter (8.00pm)

century master woodcarver, Grinling Gibbons, during repairs to Hampton Court, which was damaged by fire four years ago
7.50 **Comment** followed by *Weather*
8.00 **The Great Moghuls: The Court of Akbar**. Bamber Gascoigne continues to chart the rise and fall of the great dynasty which dominated the Indian subcontinent for more than six generations (r)
8.30 **Cheers**. Continuing the repeated first series of the likable American comedy set in a Boston bar. (Teletext)
9.00 **Film: Crimewatch** (1990). CHOICE: Although based on an idea by Jaroslav Hekel of *The Good Soldier Schweik*, writer-director Peter Biddle's comic fantasy could have come from the heyday of Ealing studios. Alarmed at competition from untrained youths, the nation's professional criminals decide to go on strike. The effects are devastating. The police have nothing to do and start being laid off. The director of public prosecutions has a nervous breakdown. When a strikebreaking initiative fails,

the villains cause a run on the pound. Connoisseurs of Ealing films will note echoes of *Passport to Pimlico* and *The Man in the White Suit*. But there is little of Ealing's cracking pace and light touch. *Crimewatch* tends to take its joke too seriously, setting itself up as an attack on Thatcherite enterprise culture. But there are excellent performances, notably from Jim Carter and Susie Woodlridge as police officers saddled with a stolen baby
10.55 **Day of the Dead**. CHOICE: From the versatile team of Laurens B. Bista and Philip Barlett, responsible for *Channel 4's* senior citizen series *The Third Wave* as well as the feature film *Midnight Breakers*, comes a vivid and impressionistic film of Mexicans in celebration. What they are celebrating, in the first two days of each November, is death and they do so joyously. As well as a reunion with the past, family musters such as taking a picnic on the graves of relatives and scattering marigolds are also an assertion of life. Drawing on poetry, music and visual art, both high and popular, *Day of the Dead* traces in the festive fusion of pagan and Christian elements, and suggests that its inherent fatalism is a strain going back many centuries. It is a pity that the writings and artefacts are not identified, and that there is no credit for the extracts from Eisenstein's film *Quo Viva Mexico*, which also contains striking images from the *Day of the Dead*
11.45 **A Week in Politics - Late Sitting**. Includes an in-depth interview with Tony Benn and a profile of David Lloyd. Presented by Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley. Ends at 1.10am

ITV VARIATIONS

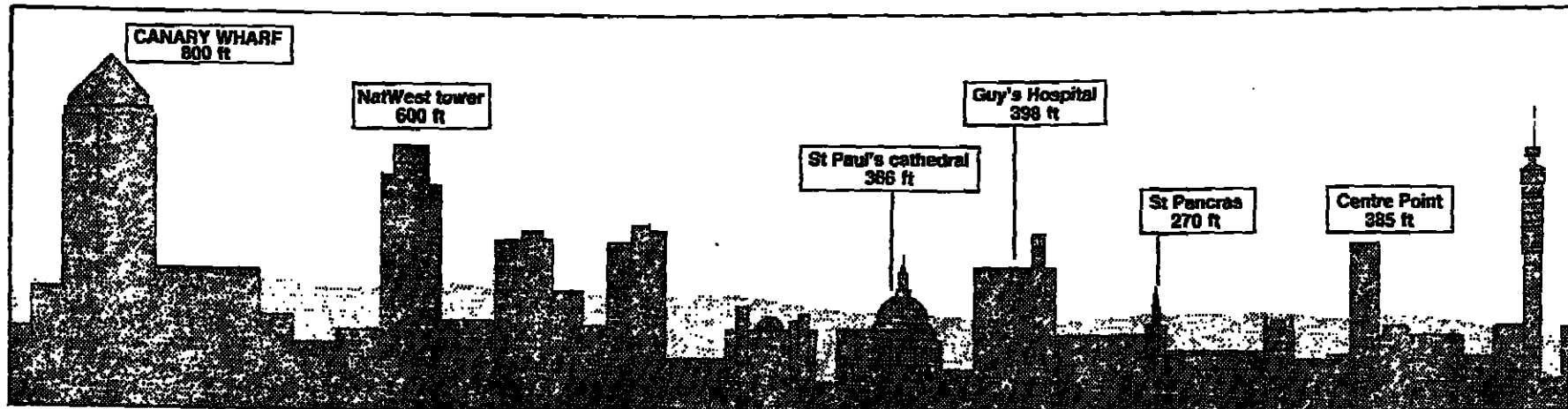
- ANGLIA**
As London except: 8.25-9.00am *Anglia News* 10.30-11.00am *Anglia News* 11.40-12.00pm *Anglia News* 1.30-2.00pm *Anglia News* 2.30-3.00pm *Anglia News* 3.30-4.00pm *Anglia News* 4.30-5.00pm *Anglia News*
BORDER
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CENTRAL
As London except: 8.25-9.00am *Central News* 10.30-11.00am *Central News* 11.40-12.00pm *Central News* 1.30-2.00pm *Central News* 2.30-3.00pm *Central News* 3.30-4.00pm *Central News* 4.30-5.00pm *Central News*
GRANADA
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- HITV WEST**
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HITV WALES
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- TYNE TEES**
As London except: 8.25-9.00am *Tyne Tees News* 10.30-11.00am *Tyne Tees News* 11.40-12.00pm *Tyne Tees News* 1.30-2.00pm *Tyne Tees News* 2.30-3.00pm *Tyne Tees News* 3.30-4.00pm *Tyne Tees News* 4.30-5.00pm *Tyne Tees News*
ULSTER
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YORKSHIRE
As London except: 8.25-9.00am *Yorkshire News* 10.30-11.00am *Yorkshire News* 11.40-12.00pm *Yorkshire News* 1.30-2.00pm *Yorkshire News* 2.30-3.00pm *Yorkshire News* 3.30-4.00pm *Yorkshire News* 4.30-5.00pm *Yorkshire News*

- SKY ONE**
5.00am *As Sky One* 6.30 *Europe's 5.00am* 7.00 *Europe's 7.00am* 8.00 *Europe's 8.00am* 9.00 *Europe's 9.00am* 10.00 *Europe's 10.00am* 11.00 *Europe's 11.00am* 12.00 *Europe's 12.00am* 1.00 *Europe's 1.00am* 2.00 *Europe's 2.00am* 3.00 *Europe's 3.00am* 4.00 *Europe's 4.00am* 5.00 *Europe's 5.00am*
SKY NEWS
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Crowning the glory of the UK's tallest tower

By Peter Victor

THE 800ft Canary Wharf tower in Docklands is to be topped out next Thursday. The tallest building in the UK and part of the largest commercial development in Europe, the tower has changed the London skyline forever.

Nearly 16,000 pieces of steel, weighing a total of 27,000 tonnes, have been erected to form the frame of the building's 50 floors.

Surpassing the NatWest Tower, previously the tallest building in Britain, by 200ft, No 1 Canada Square, to give it its proper name, nevertheless looks up to the Empire State Building, New York, at 1,250ft, Sears Tower, Chicago

at 1,454ft, and the CN Tower, in Toronto, Canada, which at 1,815ft is the world's tallest free standing structure. Sadly, an American company called Tishman Speyer is working on a building in Frankfurt which will top the Canary Wharf tower by a mere 30ft, pushing it one step further down the rankings.

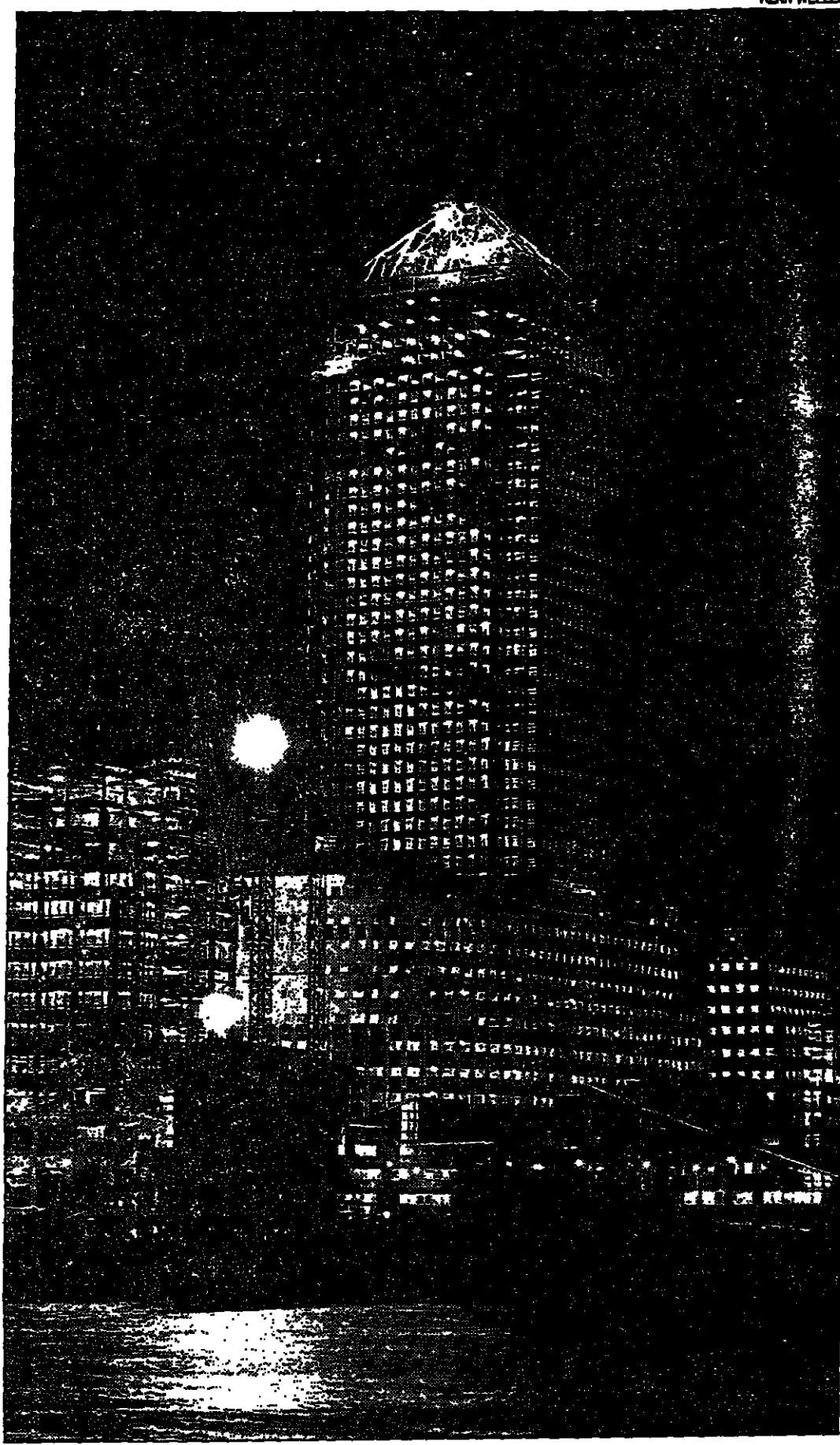
Phase one of the Docklands development comprises 4.5 million sq ft of space, 2.3 million of which has been let to American Express, Texaco, Telegraph newspapers, Lehrer McGovern International, the construction company, and Manufacturers Hanover, the banking concern. By the late 1990s the entire development, comprising 11 million sq ft throughout more than 24 buildings and covering 71 acres, will be complete.

Shocking turquoise plastic protecting the building's stainless steel skin is now being removed, after hundreds of phone calls from local residents angry at the garish tinge. Once complete the building will resemble a steel obelisk dotted with hundreds of windows; at the top will be an illuminated steel and glass pyramid.

Canadian Richard Griffiths, head of building for the project, said most of the 4,000-strong construction crew hailed from the north of England. "We haven't had to employ many people from outside Britain, although it's the first time anyone from a British workforce has been up that high." Workers have also come from Europe and South Africa, he said. "With the changes in eastern Europe we're getting a number of workers from there as well."

The building, which is due for completion next year, can be seen from Hertfordshire and up to 20 miles away in Kent. It dominates the horizon from almost any direction that even motorists use it as a guide into Docklands. Once there, however, they will have to resign themselves to travelling at snail's pace because of construction work on roads which will eventually service the tower.

Glorious link, page 14



London's pride: the steel tower topped with a glass pyramid has changed the capital's skyline

Bush runs out of patience

Continued from page 1

ain's Gulf campaign. About 500 staff from the three services working round the clock. Senior staff disclosed that 80 per cent of the 7th Armoured Brigade, about 8,000 men, were now deployed in the desert of north-eastern Saudi Arabia. If called on, they could join an offensive before the rest of the brigade joined them.

Both the defence ministry and Sir Patrick emphasised that they did not want to go to war unless they were sure of victory. Sir Patrick also felt there should be a supreme commander in the area, but he understood the political difficulties.

Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister, said yesterday that war was an imminent possibility. "It is coming. We just don't know when," he told a news conference. He was confident, however, that Iraq would not be able to destroy Saudi Arabia's oilfields, and even if some installations were hit, the kingdom's assets were so widespread that world oil supplies would not be seriously affected.

Political sketch

The Lords' bark is worse than its bite

YESTERDAY the House of Lords debated the Lords of the Realm Bill. Looking on from the oak-lined place of safety, I wondered where else you might find such an assortment of oddballs gathered together in one place - banishing the answer from my mind.

Lord Hailsham was telling us about his own dog. He was worried about a "poll tax on dogs". His dog was originally found wandering "at one of those places on the motorways where petrol is sold". Several of their lordships wondered what this had to do with the argument. Would a dog registration have traced the truant's owner?

"No!" The previous Lord Chancellor positively squealed with glee. "Because it *hadn't* got a collar on!" He rested his case, hands slapping knees in triumph.

Lord Massereene and Ferrard intervened to congratulate Lord Stanley of Alderley on the tenacity with which he pursued the amendment - "Just like a terrier on a rat!" he gasped, his admiration plain. For Lord Houghton of Sowerby the subject of dogs was too important for this amendment "smuggling dogs" into a bill. "What we really need is a complete bill on dogs," he said, looking, perhaps, towards the crossbenches which accommodate peers attached to no party.

Speaking on dogs for the Church, the Bishop of Manchester enquired meekly about their lordships' constitutional powers. Less meekly, Lord Mackie of Benshie complained that "an enormous number of red herrings have been dragged across this bill about dogs".

And then it was the turn of Baroness Strang. The baroness did more than speak about dogs, or even for dogs. Lady Strang had spoken to dogs. After "various discussions with my four-legged friends" she bore a message from the canine world. Her doggy informants were "worried that there might be a wilder and rougher element" among their fellow tail-waggers, with whom their

lordships' writ might not run. "My lords, would you like it if whenever you stepped outside the bounds of Westminster without a coronet or robe or other identifying garment, you were seized?"

"A tail tax, I prefer to call it," said Lord Jenkin of Roding, adding that their lordships' proposals were "not on all fours" with the Northern Ireland scheme. Lord J - something of a party pooper - seemed not to comprehend the hilarity this occasioned with a wilder and rougher element among their lordships.

It fell to the Baroness Blatch to reply, for the government. Lady Blatch is an air traffic controller who caught Mrs Thatcher's attention and ended up in the Lords entrusted with the environmental protection bill. She strikes a discordantly sane note, and bounded through her text with the alertness of a well-clipped springer spaniel. Fellow-peers stared uncomprehending at this businesslike intrusion. And I stared at them.

Some had eye-patches. Some had scarlet socks. Many had ostentatious watch-chains, and a number were listening to personal hearing aids shaped like black dessert spoons with a telephone-style speaker in the spoon-end. Some had magnifying glasses round their necks and one had what appeared to be binoculars.

They wore an assortment of stuntings - usually double-breasted, often gangster-style - and one woman in a strange red gown resembled the statue of liberty. The bishops looked like emperor penguins.

Dozing, twitching, growling or pressing their spoons to their ears, their lordships moved towards this last day of their parliamentary season. And that of the House of Commons too, shrieking and bawling down at the other end of the corridor. One could not help feeling that our constitution provides for a certain bizarre symmetry.

MATTHEW PARRIS

TUC offer rejected

Continued from page 1

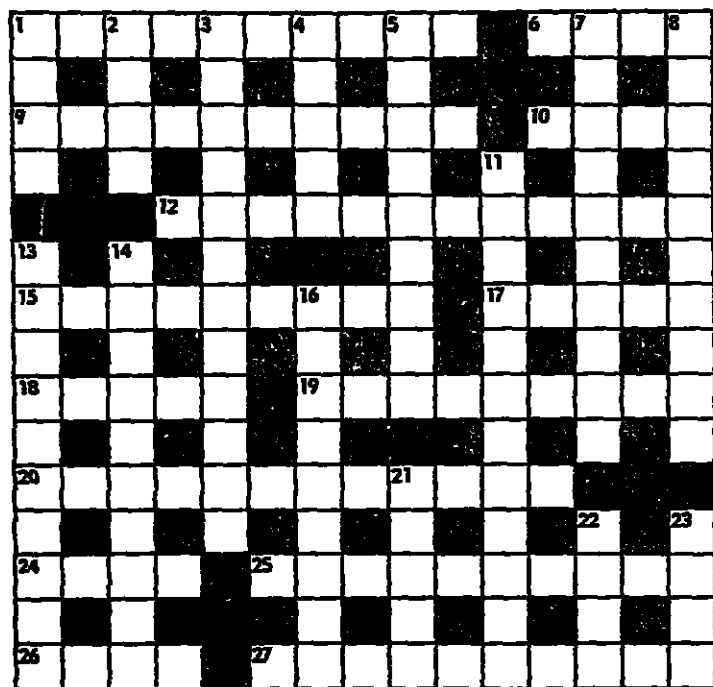
which would report back to a special meeting of council. He told the council, which was chaired by Mr Howard: "When we call for discussions, that implies a willingness to reconsider positions and assume our responsibilities. I understand the size of what we are asking, but it is asking of ourselves as well as everyone else."

The TUC envisaged a group, chaired by a minister, and including two representatives from the unions and the CBI, which would hold a series of urgent meetings on the issue and report back before Christmas. The group's economic assessment, much along the lines

of what the TUC has suggested it would want to do with a forthcoming Labour government, would have looked at such issues as the pattern of pay next year, skill shortages, and multi-skilling.

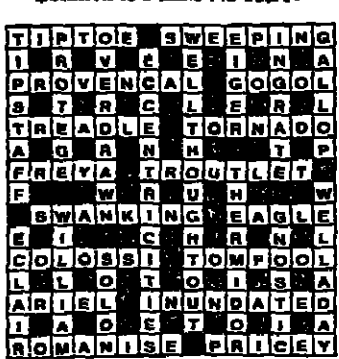
Mr Howard said after the meeting he had been "unable to identify anything new that the TUC was offering. John Banham, director general of the CBI, said: "The TUC sound as though they are still stuck in the 1970s, somewhere close to cloud cuckoo land." John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said that the government's rejection of the offer was a major missed opportunity.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,440



- ACROSS**
- 1 A cross can't come to grief - it's inviolable (10).
 - 6 Heir athlete is puffed (4).
 - 9 He's in poor shape when opening play? Hard chess! (10).
 - 10 This hospital will admit dolls, too (4).
 - 12 Literary giant lying drunk - hopelessly so (12).
 - 15 Being so boring, it reduces tension in retorts (9).
 - 17 Forgotten article found in tagliatelle, say (5).
 - 18 Painter holding coal-scuttle is a girl... (5).
 - 19 ...sort of dishy one Henry is attached to, yet unladylike (9).
 - 20 Current course that comes with 'tines of chips' (12).
 - 24 Cheeky drop in rent (4).
- DOWN**
- 1 As previously described, silver is hidden inside pudding... (4).
 - 2 ...with firm approval of chef (4).
 - 3 One will probably use all the rest, working on a big score (12).
 - 4 Early author's article on reversal of attitude (5).
 - 5 Shift is detailed to attempt this mysterious process (9).
 - 7 The daily habit of a kind of lizard? (6,4).
 - 8 Why was I shy, awkward and thin? (5-5).
 - 11 Herb no longer tended - that's foolish (6-6).
 - 13 One needs a breather to read volumes (10).
 - 14 Light-hearted wild antics in Open University, kept to a minimum? (10).
 - 16 Not believing He is in the highest place? (9).
 - 21 Music-maker for the sitting-bowler (5).
 - 22 Inadequate tip? (4).
 - 23 Man, for example, is left a foot short (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,339



Courtesy Crossword, page 15

WEATHER

It will be a bright day with clear or sunny intervals and scattered showers, the heaviest and most frequent over exposed northern parts of Scotland and western coasts of England where some will turn wintry. Some of the showers will spread into central parts but much of central, southern and eastern England will have only isolated showers. It will be cold and windy. Outlook: cold with sunny spells and showers.

ABROAD

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Alexandria 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Algeria 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Amman 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Amsterdam 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Ankara 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Antwerp 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Athens 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Bahia 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Bangkok 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Barcelona 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Bombay 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Buenos Aires 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Calcutta 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Cairo 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Cardiff 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Chennai 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Copenhagen 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Dublin 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
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| Geneva 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Hong Kong 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
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| Los Angeles 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
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| Rangoon 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| San Francisco 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Seoul 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Singapore 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Tokyo 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Winnipeg 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Zurich 11 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |

AROUND BRITAIN

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● LAW 30
● RELOCATION SPECIAL REPORT 35-38
● SPORT 40-44

BUSINESS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

GM loss of \$2bn in third quarter

GENERAL Motors reported a \$2 billion loss in the third quarter after taking a \$2.1 billion charge to close four assembly plants that have been idle for more than two years (John Durie writes from New York).

The loss, the largest on record for the main vehicle producer in America, came after an operating profit in the quarter of \$109 million, which was down on the expected profit of \$235 million.

In the first nine months of this year, General Motors made a loss of \$368 million compared with a profit of \$3.5 billion.

The result marks a dismal quarter for American car makers. In the first nine months of this year, profits for the three main American companies have fallen \$5.9 billion from the \$8 billion recorded in the same period last year.

McCaw mixed

McCaw, the American cellular telephone company where British Telecom bought a 16.6 per cent stake in July last year, reported higher revenues, and deeper losses, in the third quarter. The loss per share rose to 45 cents from 48 cents. Net losses were \$80 million (\$44.9 million). Revenues rose to \$280.5 million (\$279.7 million). During the first nine months McCaw reported a profit per share of \$3.93 (loss \$1.61). Net profit was \$711.1 million (loss \$230.1 million).

Pound falls

Sterling fell more than a penny against the mark on strong morning talk of a base rate cut that reduced money market interest rates to near 13.5 per cent and boosted share prices. But the Bank of England made it clear that no rate cut was imminent.

Comment, page 29
Stock market, page 32

Reed slips

Reed International, the publishing group, saw pre-tax profits fall from £127.8 million to £108.8 million in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend is raised from 4.6p to 5p, and there is a scrip dividend alternative.

Tempus, page 29

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9450 (-0.0055)
German mark 2.9465 (-0.0123)
Exchange index 94.5 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1592.9 (+17.6)
FT-SE 100 2050.3 (+16.4)
New York Dow Jones 2445.54 (-2.48)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25194.10 (-48.30)

Closing Prices ... Page 27

Major indices and major changes Page 30

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 13%
3-month mortgage rate 13.5%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7.75%
3-month Treasury 7.11-7.09%
30-year bonds 9.6%-9.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.9450
DM 2.9465
Sfr 2.9465
FF 6.5579
Yen 163.25
Ecu 1.9365
ECU 1.9365
Sfr 2.9465
FF 6.5579
Yen 163.25
Ecu 1.9365
ECU 1.9365

GOLD

London: New York
£ \$1.9450
DM 2.9465
Sfr 2.9465
FF 6.5579
Yen 163.25
Ecu 1.9365
ECU 1.9365
Sfr 2.9465
FF 6.5579
Yen 163.25
Ecu 1.9365
ECU 1.9365

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$33.60 bid (\$34.30)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank of England
Australia \$ 21.50
Belgium FF 60.50
Canada C\$ 1.35
France FF 6.55
Germany DM 2.94
Hong Kong \$ 7.75
Italy Lira 1.93
Japan Yen 163.25
Netherlands Gld 12.00
Portugal Esc 200.00
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Krona 10.36
Switzerland Sfr 2.94
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ERM no cure for pay problem, says NEDC chief

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EARNINGS growth will fall by only about two percentage points if unemployment rises by as much as half a million over the next two years, according to an assessment by the National Economic Development Council.

Even though the estimate is based on a possible rise in unemployment that might be politically unacceptable to the government in an election period, NEDC suggests that even after ERM entry, the UK will find it difficult to bring earnings growth down to the levels of its

principal competitors. In a paper for yesterday's quarterly meeting of the tripartite NEDC, comprising government, employers and unions, Walter Eltis, NEDC director-general, questions whether pay bargainers in the UK will be able to reduce average wage increases to the European level.

The NEDC document, called *Pay, Productivity and Employment: the Challenge of ERM Entry*, says that within a year, price inflation in Britain is likely to fall to about 6 per cent. It says this will lead to the increase in average earnings falling from its present 10.25 per cent to

about 8 per cent. But the paper notes that this is still higher than the 5-6 per cent pay increases expected in France and Germany, and says the gap is still a "serious problem".

The government and the CBI hope that the discipline of ERM membership will exert strong downward pressure on pay, but the NEDC document suggests the evidence on this point from other countries is equivocal. While ERM entry significantly changed the attitude of wage-setters in Italy, NEDC says, in France "membership of the ERM appears not to have brought about dramatic alterations in prod-

uct price and wage setting behaviour".

In a separate paper and in a presentation on pay to the council, the CBI said the belief among employers, unions and some employers that forthcoming settlements should be "inflation-plus" was "alarmingly prevalent". It argued that all pay increases should be matched by performance improvements.

But without specifically mentioning the CBI's repeated pay and performance call, NEDC says in its document that the policy of pay increases earned only by productivity gains would be dangerous,

because it would not take into account companies' recruitment and retention needs, nor would it allow companies to use productivity improvements to fund greater competitiveness and lower prices.

Dr Eltis raises the delicate question that the government and the CBI might wish to explore the suggestion from some union leaders for more co-ordinated pay bargaining, including an economic assessment of the cost increases that would be afforded while remaining competitive.

Firms unprepared, page 28

Reuters shares fall after warning

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in Reuters, the news agency and financial information group, tumbled 44p to 563p yesterday, their second day of heavy falls, after the group announced the delay of a crucial product launch. 300 job losses and a forecast of lower-than-expected current year profits.

The company was immediately embroiled in a dispute over a news report on Tuesday, when speculation of impending bad news clipped the shares by 52p to 607p, which suggested no profits warning was imminent. Reuters subsequently issued a denial of the report, but this was not seen by all market-makers.

Reuters says it is cutting 300 jobs, 200 of them in this country and mainly at its London corporate centre. It is again postponing the launch of phase two of its Dealing 2000 automated trading system for foreign exchanges.

Glen Renfrew, the managing director, said the job losses would cost £10 million and leave pre-tax profits for the year to end-December 1990 at £320 million, which is below market expectations.

The Reuters share price has fallen from above £13 in July as sentiment for the former stock market high-flyer has turned bearish, particularly in New York, because of its exposure to securities dealing. A spokesman said the delays on Dealing 2000 were to do with work still to be done in writing the software.

The delay means Dealing 2000 will not now appear until some months into 1991 at least. But the market was also concerned with Mr Renfrew's remarks about future trading uncertainty. Patrick Wellington, an analyst at County NatWest, the broker, had trimmed his forecast for this year by £10 million to £325 million pre-tax before the announcement. He further reduced his 1991 estimate to £340 million, from in excess of £380 million.

Stock market, page 32

Lilley launches enquiry into London United

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE trade department has sent investigators into London United Investments, the crashed insurance group, to examine the payment of up to \$100 million in reinsurance commissions to three Liechtenstein and German-based companies.

Price Waterhouse, LUI's administrator, has meanwhile issued High Court writs against three former directors, including Ronnie Driver, the former chairman, to recover the payments.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, has appointed Angus Gilroy, a partner at BDO Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, to investigate LUI, where Prince Michael of Kent was a director. The department will also appoint a lawyer to the case.

Mr Gilroy will concentrate

on a series of reinsurance commission payments made by HS Weavers, LUI's main underwriting agency, between the mid-Seventies and last year. The payments came to light in a report on LUI from Price Waterhouse, the accountant, Colin Bird and Alan Barrett from Price Waterhouse were appointed as LUI's administrators in May.

Price has issued writs against Mr Driver, Peter Wilson, LUI's former chief executive, and Henry Weavers, a former director. It is also suing two other individuals, who are unconnected with LUI, and three companies in Germany and Liechtenstein.

Mr Gilroy said he planned to complete his investigation within several months.

He said the size of the commission payments was material to the group, and amounted to tens of millions of dollars since the Seventies.

Part of the DTI investigation may look into the relationship between LUI and its subsidiary Russell Reinsurance. Russell Re was founded by Mr Driver and his associates in 1977 and had a local trading arrangement with Walbrook. LUI's main underwriting subsidiary, Walbrook reinsured a series of risks written by Russell for other US insurers.

Mr Gilroy said that the Russell Re affair was not central to the investigation. The investigation will instead concentrate on Weavers' European connections.

Neither Mr Driver nor Messrs Wilson and Weavers declared a relationship with

Russell Re, until the publication of LUI's 1988 annual report.

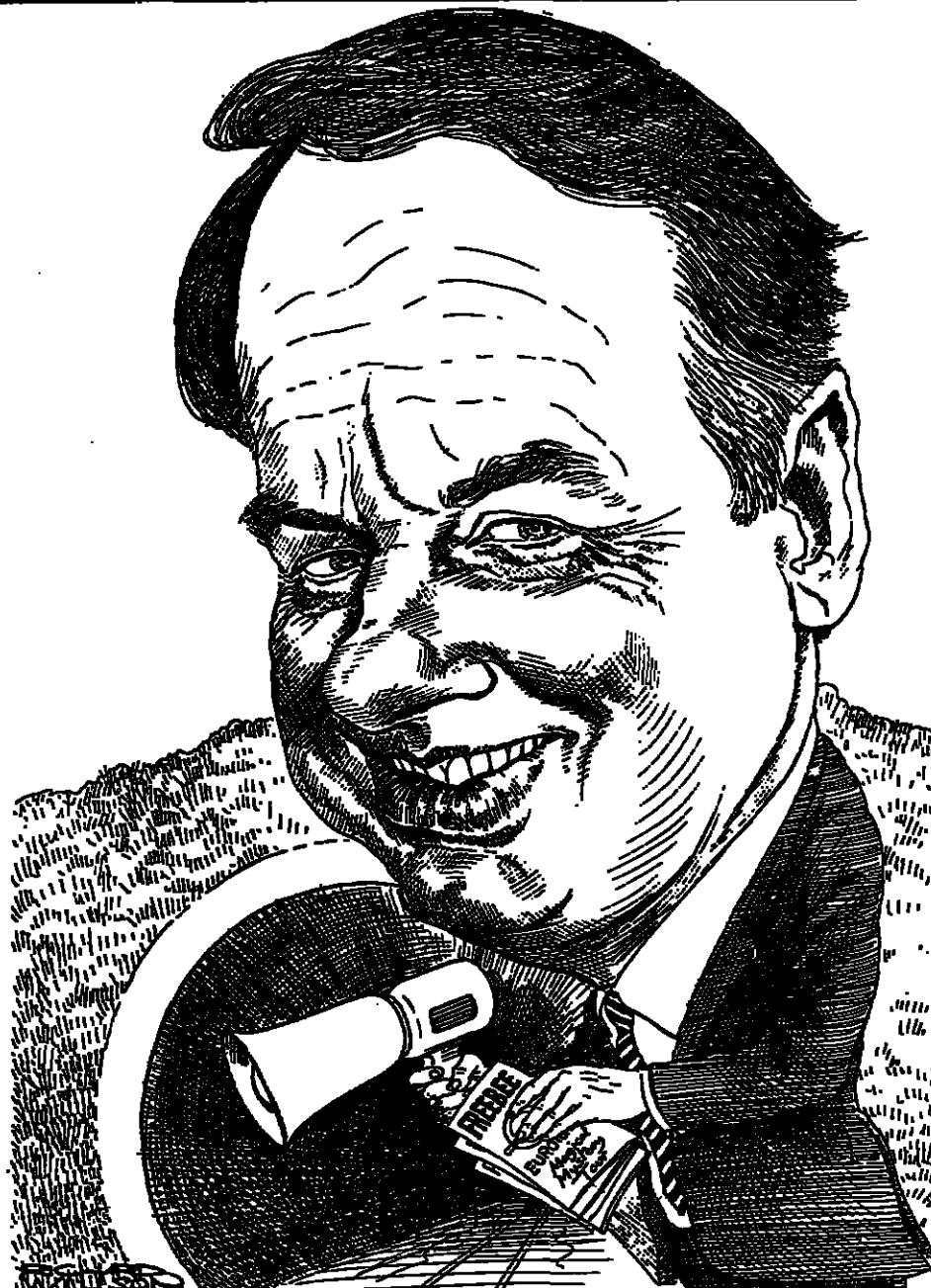
This showed that the three directors had given their shares in Russell Re along with a \$300,000 dividend. The directors said they did not believe they had a beneficial interest in Russell Re which needed to be reported under the Companies Act.

The problems at LUI became public last March, when its shares were suspended after the DTI asked Walbrook to stop trading, and six of the group's subsidiaries stopped paying claims. A preliminary report from Tillinghast, the actuary, had revealed shortfalls in six of the group's underwriting subsidiaries' claims reserves.

LUI specialised in American liability insurance. This was highly profitable in the Seventies, but more recently the group had been hit by a rising tide of claims from asbestos and environmental damage. LUI has £2 billion in estimated claims liabilities, payable in the next 25 years.

Tillinghast's full report showed the group had a short fall of up to £100 million in its reserves. LUI was forced to call in the administrators in May.

Price Waterhouse's report on the company said three of the group's subsidiaries should be sold, and the others wound up. Walbrook is now paying only old claims from reserves and not writing new business. LUI's creditors, including Barclays Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland, are still owed up to £40 million.



Fare way: Alastair Morton offers travel perks for investors taking up rights shares

Eurotunnel call offers half-price fares perk

From LINDSAY COOK
IN PAS-DE-CALAIS

HALF-price travel on Eurotunnel shuttle trains will be offered as a perk to people taking up rights issue shares. The price of the shares is expected to be announced tomorrow and £500 million is to be raised by the issue.

The fully underwritten fares are expected to be heavily discounted. Shares and perks will be available to new investors, as well as to the 100,000 British Eurotunnel shareholders.

The minimum rights shares investment is £160, which will buy a small number of half-price journeys. The number will rise in six stages until there is 50 years' travel for a £5,000 investment. When the company, chaired by Alastair Morton, was floated, non-transferable free travel was offered to investors. The rights perk can be assigned.

Colin Kirkland, technical director of Eurotunnel, said fares for the link would be at a discount to other means of crossing the Channel. He also suggested they would be arranged so that they are higher during stormy weather, as the link would be offering a premium service when other means of crossing the Channel might not be available.

Comment, page 29

M&S lifts high street morale

MARKS and Spencer, Britain's largest high street retailer, reassured the market and gave the nervous stores sector a boost when it announced pre-tax profits up 10.3 per cent at £230 million (Gillian Bowditch writes).

£2,658 billion and earnings per share rose from 8.7 pence to 5.4p. Operating profits rose by 4.4 per cent, but the £11.8 million interest charge has been transferred into a £500,000 credit largely because most of M&S's

borrowings are at low interest rates in the US and the cash generates income on deposit at high interest rates in the UK. The interim dividend is up 8.1 per cent at 2p. The shares rose 6p to 235p.

Tempus, page 29

Polly Peck administrator flies to talks in Turkey

By MATTHEW BOND

RICHARD Stone, one of the three administrators now running Polly Peck International, has flown to Turkey but has postponed plans to travel on to northern Cyprus, where it is believed that up to £140 million of Polly Peck funds are held on deposit.

Mr Stone left Heathrow at 3.55pm on a scheduled British Airways flight to Istanbul. It is not expected that Asil Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, will join him.

Mr Stone said the main purpose of his trip was to talk to the Turkish government. "My job on this visit is to bring the Turkish government up to date with what we are trying to achieve in the administration and to seek their help."

Today Mr Nadir is expected to renew his attempts to get

the Serious Fraud Office to tell him the basis of the investigation. Having had his application turned down by the courts three weeks ago, Mr Nadir's lawyers will apply to the High Court for a judicial review of that decision. On Tuesday, the SFO raided the Mayfair offices of Polly Peck, prompting an angry protest from Mr Nadir.

Mr Stone said he planned to meet certain bankers and probably representatives of the Turkish stock exchange and a full or partial sale of the remaining equity in Vestel may be planned as part of the reconstruction of Polly Peck.

"We will want to look at the financial regime in Turkey to see how that can best be used to assist in the restructuring of both Vestel and Meyna," he said.

In Turkey, Mr Stone will also meet the investigative team from his firm, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant.

They have already made good progress at Vestel. Polly Peck's 82 per cent-owned electronics subsidiary quoted on the Istanbul exchange.

But the Coopers team has faced some difficulties. The problem is Meyna, Polly Peck's Turkish food distribution group, which though based in Turkey has two residents of northern Cyprus on its board.

These two directors have prevented the accountants gaining access to Meyna's accounts. They feel constrained by an injunction granted by a northern Cyprus court blocking access to Polly Peck assets on the island.

B Gas to play generation game

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas is planning to build four power stations and become a big player in the electricity generation market.

Bob Evans, chairman, said yesterday that proposals were being examined for three stations in partnership with electricity supply companies. The 12 state-owned supply companies are due for privatisation this month. The fourth proposal, for one of two possible sites in southern England, was for a station to be financed and run by British Gas alone.

John Wilson, electricity analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the British Gas move could pose a competitive threat to National Power and PowerGen, the two state-owned generators scheduled for public flotation in February. "For British Gas to come into the market as a competitor makes absolute sense."

British Gas will be supplying the biggest component of generating cost,

Charlotte gives in to Brierley

THE board of Mount Charlotte Investments, the Leeds hotels group which has succumbed to Sir Ron Brierley's £644 million "inadvertent" takeover bid, has reluctantly recommended the offer.

The bid by Brierley Investments went unopposed this week despite frequent assurances from the Brierley camp, which had never wanted to make the approach until it was forced to by the Takeover Code rules, that it substantially undervalued Mount Charlotte.

St James's NAV

The net asset value of St James's Place Capital, the former J Rothschild Holdings investment and fund management group, was 78.4p a share at the end of the six months to September. The figure is not comparable with that in March because about half the group's assets were demerged into Bishopsgate Growth Unit Trust in August.

JMD deficit

JMD Group, supplier of greeting cards and novelty products, suffered pre-tax losses of £768,000 during the six months to end-June. Comparable figures, showing a profit of £158,000, relate to the John Michael Design consultancy, which has been sold. There is no interim dividend.

UBS warning

Robert Studer, chief executive of Union Bank of Switzerland, which owns Phillips & Drew, the London securities house, says the bank will not match last year's profits.

VTR edges up

VTR, the video and audio services company quoted on the USM, reports a 2.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.3 million for the year ended August 31. A final dividend of 2.2p makes 3.3p, an increase of 10 per cent.

Bioplan's £1m

Bioplan Holdings, the healthcare group that reversed into Cooks Industries, in April, reports pre-tax profits of £1 million for the six months to end-September.

Blackland loss

Blackland Oil reduced net losses from £174,000 to £58,000 during the six months to the end of June.

Privatisation plan for ports to be unveiled

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS that will allow Britain's 111 trust ports to convert themselves into private companies and issue shares are likely to be outlined on Wednesday.

Confirmation that the enabling legislation will be passed in the next parliamentary session is expected in the Queen's speech at the state opening of Parliament.

With assets estimated at £500 million, the ports promise a mouth-watering source of privatisation revenue for the Treasury. Although no-one theoretically owns the trust ports, the Treasury is likely to take more than two-thirds of any money raised by flotation.

Many ports are keen to convert. They say that the abolition of the dock labour scheme last year precipitated a competitive free-for-all in which they are unfairly handicapped. However, the abolition also brought about a sharp improvement in ports' profitability.

The trust ports handle about half of Britain's overseas trade. In 1989, they imported and exported 480 million tonnes of goods worth about £162 billion.

They are the present incarnation of a centuries-old tradition of public involvement in port facilities. Each has its own act of Parliament which sets out its responsibilities to conserve navigation and limits its spread of commercial activities. They are run by a mixture of executive officers and government appointees.

Sullom Voe, the oil terminal in the Shetlands, is the biggest by tonnage of cargo handled. The Port of London Authority is the second largest, with Tees & Hartlepool Port Authority third.

The government's forthcoming white paper was triggered by pressure from the ports as much as by ideology.

Two authorities, Clyde Port Authority and Tees & Hartlepool, initiated private members bills to enable them to convert themselves into companies and offer their shares to employees and the public.

Those bills are expected to receive royal assent next spring.

At least one other authority, the Medway Ports Authority in Kent, has now indicated that it wants company status.

Whipping up a storm, page 29

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Whipping up a storm, page 29



Fenner forecasts cut

PROFIT forecasts for Fenner, the power transmissions and conveyor belt maker, were downgraded after a cautious trading statement from Peter Barker, the chairman (above). Fenner announced pre-tax profits up 21 per cent at £16.1 million for the year ended September 1. A final dividend of 5.1p (4.9p) makes a total of 8.55p (8.1p). Earnings rose 10 per cent to 23.32p a share. Barclays de Zoete Wedd reduced its forecast for the current year from £17 million pre-tax to £15.5 million after Mr Barker said sterling's strength would affect exports. Smith New Court, Fenner's broker, maintains its forecast at £16.5 million. *Tempus, page 29*

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Clearance for Staffa oilfield

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE energy department has approved plans to develop the Staffa oilfield in the North Sea. First oil from the field is expected late next year at production rates of 8,000 barrels a day.

The field is 460km north-east of Aberdeen, just 10km east of the Ninian oilfield. Recoverable reserves are estimated at 10 million barrels of oil-equivalent.

Partners in block 3/8b, which contains the Staffa field, are Lasmo North Sea, the operator, with a 60 per cent interest, and Ranger Oil (UK), which holds the outstanding 40 per cent.

Ranger has an 11.5 per cent interest in the Ninian field. The field will be developed using two sub-sea production wells linked by pipeline to the Ninian southern platform, where oil will be processed and transported through existing pipeline facilities to the Sullom Voe terminal. Gas from Staffa will be sold to owners of the Ninian field for use as fuel. Development cost will be \$40 million.

Ranger, an operator, has also received development approval for the Angia offshore gas field in the southern gas basin, in which it has a 35.6 per cent interest. Partners include Conoco, Elf Oil and Gas, Amerada Hess and Triton Resources. Production of 50 million cubic feet of gas a day is expected to begin in December 1991.

US firm to pay £11m for Klark-Teknik

KLARK-Teknik, the USM electronic products manufacturer and distributor, is being acquired by Mark IV Industries, the American manufacturing group, for £11 million. Shareholders are being offered 68p a share, representing a 38 per cent premium to the Klark-Teknik share price on Oct 24, the last day when trading in the shares was recorded before a "bid talks" announcement three days ago. The shares moved up 5p to 68p on the announcement. There is a loan note alternative. Acceptances for the recommended offer have already been received for 52.4 per cent of the shares.

Klark-Teknik also announced pre-tax profits of £1.6 million for the year to end-July, a 42 per cent increase on 1989. Turnover increased 55 per cent to £10.6 million. A special interim 1.2p dividend has been declared in lieu of a final dividend for the year, making a 1.95p total (1.4p).

Rowe Evans profits slide

LOWER commodity prices for palm oil and rubber, coupled with adverse exchange rate movements, meant reduced profits at Rowe Evans Investments, the plantation group. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits were £290,000 (£1.74 million). Earnings fell from 2.98p to 0.41p. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

Bertam down 40% at half

PRE-TAX profits at Bertam Holdings, the West Malaysia plantations operator, fell by 40 per cent to £338,000 in the six months to end-June, compared with £560,000 for the same period last year. There is no interim dividend. Oil palm and fresh fruit yields were up considerably. No significant price movements are expected for the remainder of the year.

Telegraph ahead 3%

PRE-TAX profits at The Daily Telegraph, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *The Spectator*, rose 3 per cent to £29.7 million in the first nine months.

The rise follows higher profits from associated printing companies and a big increase in investment income, which rose from £1.1 million to £3.9 million, reflecting the positive cash position. However, the increase in pre-tax profits was accompanied by a tenfold increase in the tax charge, which rose to £8.3 million as the company used up remaining tax losses. Sales fell from £175 million to £167 million, and operating profits by 23 per cent to £24 million.

Classic car trader loss

Automobiles of Distinction, Third Market classic car trader, has reported a £114,000 pre-tax loss for the half year to end-May. Its first six months of trading, and has announced it is engaged in "advanced bid talks". The company said classic car values declined sharply during 1990 and it is looking to diversify into "a broader range of motor activities".

Ensign Trust assets fall

ENSIGN Trust, the investment manager controlled by the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, suffered a 24 per cent fall in net assets per share to 85p in the year to end-September. Final dividend is maintained at 1.3p. Pre-tax profits fell 5 per cent to £4.16 million. Ensign suffered from a 16 per cent slump in the value of its investment portfolio.

Outhwaite cash call

THE 880 members of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association, representing Lloyd's members involved with underwriting syndicates hit by massive asbestos damage claims, have approved a £3 million commitment to finance a legal claim against more than 80 Lloyd's members' agents. At the first annual general meeting of the association, at Westminster Central Hall, members unanimously gave the go-ahead to a cash call to raise about £700,000 to cover costs. A further £2.3 million is to be made available by members to cover legal costs if the association loses its case.

Mixed results for oil independents

By MARTIN BARROW

THREE Irish-based independent oil companies with growing overseas operations reported mixed interim results.

Aran Energy made profits of £171,000 (£155,000) before tax for the six months to end-June, recovering from losses of £133,000 for the first half of 1989. But earnings fell from 0.16p a share to 0.12p because of a sharp decline in tax credits now that most Petroleum Revenue Tax refunds have been exhausted. There is again no dividend.

Tullow Oil, which has interests in Senegal, Pakistan, Yemen and the UK, made a

net loss of £147,967 during the six months to end-June, against income of £141,413. There was loss of 0.04p a share, compared with earnings of 0.05p. There is again no dividend.

Atlantic Resources returned net losses of £1764,000 for the same period against a deficit of £13.16 million last year, after a gradual return to production in the Claymore oilfield in the North Sea, in which the company has a 0.5 per cent interest. Losses were reduced from 1.66p a share to 0.32p. Again there is no dividend.

Sales of unit trusts still declining

By SARA MCCONNELL

SALES of unit trusts fell again in September, reflecting investors' continuing uncertainty in the face of the Gulf troubles and a 10 per cent drop in equity markets during the month.

The Unit Trust Association reports a 9.9 per cent fall in total funds under management in September to £44.8 billion. Gross sales were down to £511 million from £593.1 million in August. Total repurchases of £828.2 million resulted in a net outflow of £317.2 million.

The number of unitholders also fell to 4.73 million.

Division closed in Barclays shake-up

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS Bank is merging its treasury operations and closing its corporate banking division in a worldwide reorganisation prompted by a report from McKinsey, the management consultants.

The bank is dividing into three divisions. Banking, the largest, will include all retail and commercial lending business. The treasury department will be merged with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment banking offshoot, to form a markets and investment banking division. Barclays capital and risk management departments will

be moved into a separate finance division, to avoid potential conflicts of interest with the trading activity of the markets division.

The board hopes the reorganisation will be completed by April. The moves will cause job losses, in particular among the 600 treasury staff.

Sir John Quinton will continue as chairman in the reorganised bank. The banking division will be headed by Alastair Robinson, the market division by Sir Martin Jacobson and Brian Pearce will be the third divisional chief.

Scottish Heritable warning

By MARTIN WALLER

SCOTTISH Heritable Trust, the owner of Standard, Britain's only fireworks maker, has issued a profits warning, forecasting pre-tax losses of £5.5 million in the year to end-December, along with hefty below the line provisions.

The shares, now at a tenth of their value a year ago, slipped 1p to 13p on the news. The company said it was in talks with its bankers and was optimistic about putting together a debt restructuring package this week.

Scottish Heritable, whose interests include property, housebuilding, hospital beds, golf clubs and oriental carpets, expects to lose £1.7 million in the second half and report extraordinary losses at the year-end to cover the closure of its property division and of a small modular housing division in Alabama.

A property sale in America has been delayed, but the company says it is looking at alternative disposals to cut debts, estimated by analysts at over £75 million.

Standard should exceed last year's £1.5 million profits, but carpets could lose £2 million and hospital bed manufacturing is losing money.

Cullens is back in the black

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CULLENS Holdings, the grocery store business, has made its first pre-tax profit in five years, due to a new type of franchising scheme introduced by Peter Matthews, the chief executive.

The group made a profit of £339,000 compared to a loss of £317,000 for the six months to end-August. Turnover was £863,000 compared with £633,000, and earnings per share were 1.3p compared with a loss per share of 1.3p. There is no interim dividend.

Under the partnership scheme, shop operators have a share in the profits and loss account on a monthly basis. The turnover figure for the first half of the current year represents the profit contribution from the stores under the partnership scheme.

Mr Matthews has handed over the role of chairman to Robert Rayne but remains chief executive. The shares were unchanged at 34p.

Firms unprepared for single market

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MORE than half British companies have failed to take action to prepare for the EC single market in 1992. Almost a quarter still believe their businesses will be unaffected by the single market.

The trade and industry department is interviewing 100 managers in private sector companies each week about their readiness for 1992. Survey figures of 2,869 interviews, in the six months to June, were given to yesterday's National Economic Development Council meeting.

The report says: "There are a large number of small- and medium-sized companies which may not be doing enough to evaluate the implications of the single market for their activities if they are to remain competitive."

Of companies surveyed, 57 per cent have taken no action

to prepare for 1992. However, 13 per cent of those intend to take action, while 9 per cent have looked at 1992 and decided that preparatory action would be inappropriate.

Twenty-three per cent of companies claim that the single market will not affect them, 5 per cent say they are "too busy" to think about preparations and 4 per cent say they are unaware of plans for the single market.

The survey also shows that Britain is now behind only Denmark in implementing 1992 measures. Of 107 due to be in place by 1990 only 18 have not been implemented.

In a business agenda for Europe, the CBI acknowledges several issues are coming into focus from the EC, including the implications of the single market for British sovereignty and parliament's role.

Bett Bros dividend lifted 10%

By MARTIN BARROW

BETT Brothers, the Dundee builder and property developer, is increasing its total dividend payment by 10 per cent despite returning near-static annual profits and earnings per share.

The company, which also owns nine public houses and two hotels, has declared a final dividend of 4.3p a share for a total of 6.4p for the year to the end of August, against 5.8p for the previous 12 months.

Pre-tax profits for the period were £4.3 million, against £4.35 million, while earnings fell from 18.86p a share to 18.59p.

Turnover of £20.6 million compared with £34.7 million for the previous 12 months, which included a major property disposal.

Group operating profits rose marginally from £4.82 million to £5.03 million.

Second Postage Stamp Design Contest

Sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

- Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Award (for postage stamp design) 2 entries from each division: Award: ¥1,000,000 for division A / ¥500,000 for division B
- Excellence Award 10 entries from each division: Award: ¥300,000 for division A / ¥150,000 for division B
- Winner's Award 50 entries from each division: Award: Commemorative items with a value of ¥30,000

Application Outline

- Divisions: Division A - for those aged 19 or over as of January 31, 1991. Division B - for those aged 18 or under as of January 31, 1991.
- Submission of Entries:
 - There are no limitations regarding theme.
 - Entries must be original and previously unpublished designs.
 - Entries chosen for use as postage stamps may be partially modified or trimmed.
 - Award-winning entries may also be used for postcards and mini letters (domestic version of aerograms) upon the consent of the artist.
 - The copyright and ownership of all award-winning entries shall belong to the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications.
 - Award-winning entries may also be used for the purpose of PR in magazines and exhibitions of the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications.
 - Regular entries will be returned if requested after the contest. Award-winning entries, however, will not be returned.
- Regulations:
 - Entries must be enclosed within a space of 200 mm x 150 mm on a piece of 260 mm x 210 mm paper.
 - The design can be oriented either vertically or horizontally.
 - Selection of drawing and coloring materials is at the discretion of the artist.
 - Figures indicating stamp postage and year of issue as well as letters and/or characters denoting the issuing country cannot appear on the entry.
- Submission Procedure:
 - There is no limit to the number of submissions.
 - The following items must be affixed to the back of the entry

and mailed to the address below.
Division, Title of the entry, Full name, Age (as of January 31, 1991), Sex, Phone No., Address, Country, and Whether or not you want your entry returned.
● Mailing address: Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Stamps and Correspondence Promotion Division "Postage Stamp Design Contest" 100-90 Tokyo, Japan.
● Closing date: January 31, 1991.
● Announcement of the Results: All winners will be directly notified of the results by the end of March 1991.
Jury: Hisao Isoda/Kohsei Sugita/Moe Nagata, and others.
Award Presentation Ceremony: Winners of the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Award and Excellence Award will be invited to Tokyo for the award presentation ceremony, which will be held on the "Special Postage Stamp Issuing Day" (May 31, 1991).

Entry Form

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Division | Title of the design: |
| Full name: | |
| Age: | Sex: |
| Phone Number: | |
| Address (with postal code): | |

NatWest INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following changes in interest rates effective from 1st November 1990:

| Crown Reserve | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Customers not affected by CRT | | Customers affected by CRT | |
| Gross interest per annum | | Net interest per annum | Gross equivalent per annum to basic rate taxpayer |
| 13.75% | Crown Reserve Account - £25,000 and above | 10.75% | 14.33% |
| 13.50% | Crown Reserve Account - £10,000-£24,999 | 10.50% | 14.00% |
| 13.25% | Crown Reserve Account - £2,000-£9,999 | 10.00% | 13.33% |
| Student Plus | | | |
| 6.00% | Student Plus Account - | 4.50% | 6.00% |

National Westminster Bank PLC
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

In favour of going Dutch

THE National Westminster Bank has announced that it will be offering a 10 per cent discount on the first time a customer opens a new current account with the bank. The discount will be applied to the first month's interest on the account. The bank said it was offering the discount to encourage new customers to open accounts with it. The discount will be applied to the first month's interest on the account. The bank said it was offering the discount to encourage new customers to open accounts with it.

Winning streak
JST says after winning what may become its most lucrative assignment yet - the admin

A mousehole through to France

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Britain's longest running corporate soap, Eurotunnel (a story of power, money, international politics and boardroom drama) reached another cliffhanging climax this week.

From the British side (where else?) highly trained technocrats drilled a hole that reached France. This was not the tunnel itself, but a small bore which extended beyond the face of the tunnelling machine which is creeping steadily towards France.

On the far side, Frenchmen anxious to catch their first gasp of Kentish air, accelerated their digger until it uncovered the little hole. The two countries were thus united, and the Continent was no longer cut off from the mainland.

The meeting of the two tunnels, albeit through a 150 metre hole only three inches in diameter, will put to an end the old jokes about the tunnels missing and the company getting two for the price of one.

It also marks the end of one of the speculative phases through which the tunnel project will pass, just as it has to pass through the various layers of the earth's crust. The geological risk can now

be written out of the share price. A tunnel is not only feasible, it has been done, even though parts of it are only mouse-sized.

Other technical risks are out of the reckoning. The new piece of Kent constructed just along the coast from Dover Harbour is nearly complete, absorbing the millions of tons of chalk spoil taken out behind the boring machines.

The great terminals at either end are now recognisable by their earthworks, roadbuilding and loading bridges. The sea has remained outside and the White Cliffs have retained their stability. So long as the railway works and the newly designed rolling stock does not suffer the fate of the tilting train, there will be an operating tunnel.

But not all the risk elements have passed from the shares. Although funds are in place to complete the project, that is on current estimates of cost, with a considerable amount of head-

room. The sums could still go wrong. Current shareholders still do not know at what price the new shares will be offered. Hence they do not know the level of dilution.

Finally, there is the greatest risk of all, will enough people use it to justify the price-tag, especially when the English side is dogged by the fiasco of the fast rail link? The omens are inconclusive. There is considerable public interest in the project, and 600,000 people have visited the exhibition centre at the Folkestone terminal site. Whether they will put their cars into Eurotunnel's wagons or drive along the coast to the Dover ferries is anyone's guess at the moment. Traffic forecasts

have held up despite the recession. The oil price moves against the ferries and air.

Depending on one's point of entry, Eurotunnel shares have been a fabulous investment or an abominable disaster. They collapsed 100p to 250p on their first day of dealings. They subsequently zoomed into the £12 area before falling back again. No matter what price is picked for the new tranche, they will continue to be volatile. But the risks on this second public equity offering are considerably less than first time around.

The "breakthrough" has been timed perfectly to coincide with the equity issue, and the programme of further breakthroughs, handshakes, picture

opportunities and goodness knows what else should be enough to keep the momentum of interest up for many a month. Not for widows. Not for orphans. Unless, of course, they like a bit of fun and holidays in France.

Wait for it

The markets had decided by mid-morning that the Chancellor would cut interest rates immediately in the wake of CBI blues. Sterling futures for December assumed a rate of just under 13 per cent and, more presumptuously, genuine three month money fell 0.25 per cent to about 13.5 per cent. Speculation of an announcement was fuelled by lack of action by the Bank of England over the predicted money shortage.

Surely, said the men with the fevered brows, the Bank was holding back to reveal a rate cut. As if to settle the matter, the

French announced a quarter point cut, removing any lingering fear of a German rate rise today. This thinking did wonders for the stock market, but nothing for sterling, which limped steadily down to below its central rate target mark.

In the event, the Bank dug in its heels and punished the banks, eventually charging a penal overnight rate for money. "Don't push us" was the message. But will John Major jump?

Sterling's disbelieving reaction was a warning that the Chancellor's anti-inflation credentials have still to be proved under pressure. Predicting a 13 per cent base rate in mid-December is a fair bet, given the first real break in retail price inflation will be announced then. The trickier question is whether Mr Major will be tempted to jump the gun and help the electricity share sale. The next money supply figures, due on November 20, will give a tempting opportunity. Today, analysts may well be able to predict from the weekly figure that they will bring year on year growth of M0 below 4 per cent.

Ports aim to whip up a storm in the private sector



'Taxpayers must be repaid': Patrick McLoughlin

CONVERSION of up to 50 trust ports to the private sector will enable managers of existing port authorities to cope with problems unforeseen in the statutes that set them up.

The Clyde and the Tees & Hartlepool authorities, which have pioneered the move, illustrate both problems and potential.

According to Tees & Hartlepool, the pressures favouring conversion are threefold.

With the dock labour scheme defunct, ports are free to trim their workforces and seek efficient operating practices. Pressure for cost savings is rising as port customers seek a competitive edge ahead of 1992's single European market.

Finally, the trust ports face aggressive competition from Associated British Ports Holdings, the former state-owned operator privatised in 1983.

Because Britain is a relatively small island, the operators say, there is intense competition between ports for many types of cargo.

The legislation founding the trust ports placed tight limits on their activities, effectively limiting them to "port-related business" within the geographical confines of the port area: fine when the port business is booming, fatally restrictive when trading partners shift and the business dries up.

In common with most, if not all, west coast British ports, the Clyde authority has seen an enormous decline in significance over the past two decades, as the country turns its trading face increasingly towards continental Europe.

The problem is going to worsen rather than improve. Earlier this year, British Steel announced the closure of the hot strip mill at the Ravenscraig steel plant, which provides about 40 per cent of the Clyde port's business. The impact of the now expected total closure of the works would be disastrous.

Only by developing new profit streams could the port have any long-term chance of operating commercially.

But in a speech in 1988, Paul Channon, then the transport secretary, said that any

requests from the trust ports for increased powers would be granted only if the ports were prepared to accept a greater level of accountability, for example through incorporation.

A year ago, Clyde became the first to seek incorporation, through a private bill sponsored by a local MP. Tees & Hartlepool was quick to follow.

Once incorporated, they will be free to issue shares to private investors.

According to Hill Samuel, Clyde's financial adviser, the shares will be sold to management, employees past, present and future, probably using an employee share ownership plan (Esop), as well as local investment institutions.

Tees & Hartlepool has appointed NM Rothschild to devise a share issue, and contemplates a public flotation after about five years. In the year to March, Tees & Hartlepool made £40 million pre-tax profits. Its main cus-

tomers include ICI, Philips North Sea, British Steel and Nissan.

Alex Finlay, of Tees & Hartlepool, said lifting restrictions on the authority's activities will enable it to diversify into related fields, providing a better service for customers. The model for its development is AB Ports.

She said: "We will be able to provide a complete service with our own lorries, warehousing and freight-forwarding operations."

Local property markets will also be affected as the sales will allow the huge, hitherto largely untouched, property portfolios owned by the ports to be commercially developed.

Tees & Hartlepool, which plans a development arm, has 2,500 acres of land, including perhaps 1,000 acres which are surplus to the needs of its port operations.

But there is a snag to conversion. Even though the government does not formally

own the trust ports, it is claiming most of the proceeds from any sales to the private sector.

Patrick McLoughlin, the shipping and aviation minister, said ports had received government grants and taxpayers will have to be repaid in some form. The demand has shocked and surprised Clyde's board, which was given no prior warning, and says the demand has thrown its financial projections into confusion.

The two sides are still in negotiations over the condition, though George Johnston, Clyde's director and secretary, said: "I would not like to put too strong an emphasis on our chances. Discussions are on-going and we are doing our best to talk the government figure down."

Clyde argues that "the more the government takes, the less flexible we can be in our capital structure and more vulnerable we will be to predators. The more options we have in the ways we restructure, the more we can attract the right sort of people to invest."

Even so, the chances are that some time next year, the Clyde Port Authority will become the first trust port to offer shares to outside investors since these ports were founded a century ago.

Probably the most intriguing and contentious will be the Port of London Authority (PLA), which has jurisdiction over the Thames from Teddington to Tilbury. The accounts of the PLA suggest considerable improvement in profitability may be achieved. The dock labour scheme, which compelled ports to employ many more workers than they wanted and preserved strict job demarcation, was abolished in July 1989.

Before abolition, Tilbury, the main PLA port, had a workforce of 1,750. Its 1989 payroll of £30.5 million swallowed a large chunk of its £45 million turnover. The workforce has now fallen to 1,000 and all job demarcation has been abandoned.

JONATHAN PRYNN and ROSS TIEMAN

M&S shrugs off doubters

TEMPUS

TALK of Marks and Spencer's fallibility last week was exaggerated. Britain's largest high street retailer still weathers the storm better than most.

Interim pre-tax profits to end-September rose 10.3 per cent to £230 million. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to £2.66 billion and earnings per share 8.7 per cent to 5.4p. The dividend is up 8.1 per cent at 2p.

However, the figures mask some disturbing trends. Clothing sales per square foot fell in real terms. Profits at Brooks Brothers, the American menswear retailer, fell from \$8.1 million to \$1.5 million, while Kings Super Markets, the American food business, saw profits fall from \$6.6 million to \$5.4 million. The Canadian businesses are all still losing. In Britain, financial services profits fell from £3.6 million to £1.1 million and home furnishings continue to face a difficult market.

On the positive side, last year's £11.8 million interest charge has disappeared. Profits in the European business are up 40.4 per cent at £8 million. British food sales continue to rise and the group took advantage of the flat

property market to increase its trading space by 3.4 per cent.

M&S is expected to have a more difficult second half. Phillips & Drew estimates that pre-tax profits will be £650 million for the year, putting the shares on a p/e ratio of 15, a significant premium to the sector. But M&S is one of the few reliable performers in a volatile sector and the shares are worth hanging on to.

Fenner

FENNER is an engineering stalwart that has been around long enough to know what it takes to ride out a recession. A new management team is in place but there are clear signs that the company is not about to shed its conservative image.

The new boys have shown that they are prepared to take painful decisions to keep the company on the right tracks by closing a Scottish conveyor belt facility at a cost of £3.2 million. Gearing of 47 per cent is not to be ignored and tight cost controls are the order of the day, if interest cover is to be maintained at 4.7 times.

In difficult conditions, the company has done all that was expected of it by delivering pre-tax profits up 21 per cent to £16.1 million for the year to end-August. Earnings were 10 per cent higher at 22.32p a share.

A modest dividend rise of 6 per cent to 8.55p a share indicates that this sterling performance is unlikely to be repeated in the current year. Industry here and overseas is delaying investment in capital goods and increased demand for maintenance and repair work will not make good the shortfall.

Despite the high overseas content, earnings will, at best, be maintained this year, leaving the shares at 6.3 times prospective earnings. In relative terms, they are fully valued.

Reed

REED International was in cautious mood when it faced City analysts yesterday. The shares have come off 140p from their high this summer, and it can still not point to any

firm signs of a resurgence in advertising revenues.

Interim pre-tax profits £19 million lower at £108.8 million were greeted by the market with a 5p rise to 335p. The decline came from a £10.8 million expected seasonal loss and interest payments from acquisitions, including the American legal publisher Martindale-Hubbell, a net £1.8 million loss because of the falling dollar. Comparison also suffered from £0.5 million of exceptional profits last time from the sale of Reuters shares.

The book side suffered from the downturn in consumer spending, with operating profits falling 19 per cent to £24 million. Consumer publishing had a boost from the purchase of TV Times.

Despite the exceptional element in the first half, it is hard to see Reed making good the lost ground in the second and pre-tax profits may end up around £275 million, against £302 million last time. The shares now sell at a below-average 9.4 times prospective earnings and yield almost 6 per cent. Any further weakness and they will start to look good value again, present uncertainty notwithstanding.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

In favour of going Dutch

THE Netherlands is the natural choice for British companies setting up on the Continent for the first time. Such is the view of Sir James Clesminson, past CBI president and former chairman of Reckitt & Colman, who has spent much of his working life encouraging links with the Netherlands. "The Netherlands is one of the best places to start because it's near and most of the people speak excellent English," says Clesminson, aged 69, who presented the ninth annual Anglo-Dutch Awards for Enterprise at the London Hilton yesterday. "It is our fourth biggest trading partner and a lot of companies start there." Clesminson, who steps down as chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board this month, passing the title to Sir Derek Hornby, former Rank Xerox (UK) chairman, has a long association with the country. A member of the 1st Airborne division in the second world war, he was awarded the military cross for saving the life of his commanding officer during the battle of Arnhem. Far from reducing his workload, he is now embarking on a project to help save the Theatre Royal, Norwich, which is in urgent need of funds.

Winning streak

JUST days after winning what may become its most lucrative assignment yet - the admin-

istration of Polly Peck - the corporate finance team at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte seems destined for still greater things. For it has become the first team of professional advisers to reach the finals of the annual Business Challenge, sponsored jointly by the Institute of Directors and Lotus Development. "It seems quite appropriate that the largest corporate finance department should have got this far," says Majid Sadjadi, the team leader, adding that all the other finalists, including Burton, the retail group, are drawn from industry.

"With Polly Peck we have gone some way towards demonstrating we can restructure a company," says Sadjadi, aged 32, who works under Richard Stone, head of corporate finance and a Polly Peck administrator with Michael Jordan of Cork Gully and Christopher Morris of Touche

Ross. "Hopefully, the calibre of the team will pull us through," Sadjadi says. Competitors in the challenge, which begins next Tuesday, will be asked to manage fictional companies by drawing on their corporate skills. Polly Peck's directors and shareholders will no doubt take comfort from a Coopers victory.

FROM a City stockbroker's circular to clients: "A recession is when your neighbour loses his job. A depression is when you lose your job. And panic is when your wife loses her job."

Mistaken identity

THE talk of recession that has been gripping the City has driven some traders to desperate measures in their quest for entertainment. The point was proved on Tuesday evening when two institutional salesmen from Williams de Broë, the stockbroker, were seen making a hasty exit from a nightclub in the West End. The pair, Joe Nally and Andrew Morgan, who specialise in UK equities, had been enjoying a quiet glass or two of champagne at Xenon, a club in Piccadilly, central London, when they were joined by three exotic creatures who asked them to dance. Happy to oblige, and perhaps more than a little flattered by the proposal, they moved to the dance floor and entered into the spirit of the occasion. After some minutes, and on closer examination, Nally and Morgan realised, to their horror,

that they had made a terrible mistake. "The hands were too big and the Adam's apples were too pronounced," says a rival trader, who was enjoying a beer when he saw the pair racing for the nearest door.

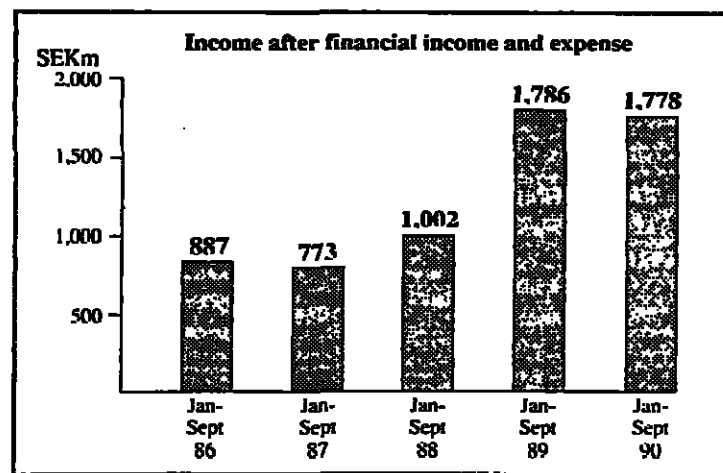
Hillgarth's post

PETER Knapton, new head of UK equities at MIM Britannia, is not alone in his fight to improve prospects for the investment house. For, in the second high-level appointment this week, he has been joined by Tristan Hillgarth, formerly of Framlington, who has been brought in to head a brand new European venture. Hillgarth, aged 41, has been appointed chief executive of IMI-MIM International Asset Management, a new joint venture between the British group and Italy's largest financial services company. "I will be looking for Japanese and American cash and expect a lot of development within Europe," says Hillgarth, who, like Knapton, was introduced to MIM by Stephenson Coddold, the headhunter. "IMI wants to expand overseas and MIM is keen to develop in Europe." After training as an accountant with Arthur Andersen, Hillgarth spent five years with Charterhouse Japhet before beginning his spell with Framlington. He is well placed to strengthen ties with Europe, since he was born in Spain, his wife is French, and he has a weekend home in France.

JON ASHWORTH

SKF Nine Months 1990

SKF nine months profit SEK 1.78 billion



January - September 1990

| | Swedish Kronor | Sterling equivalent |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| Income after financial income and expense | 1,778m | 171m |
| Earnings per share | 9.80 | 95p |
| Sales | 21,077m | 2,032m |

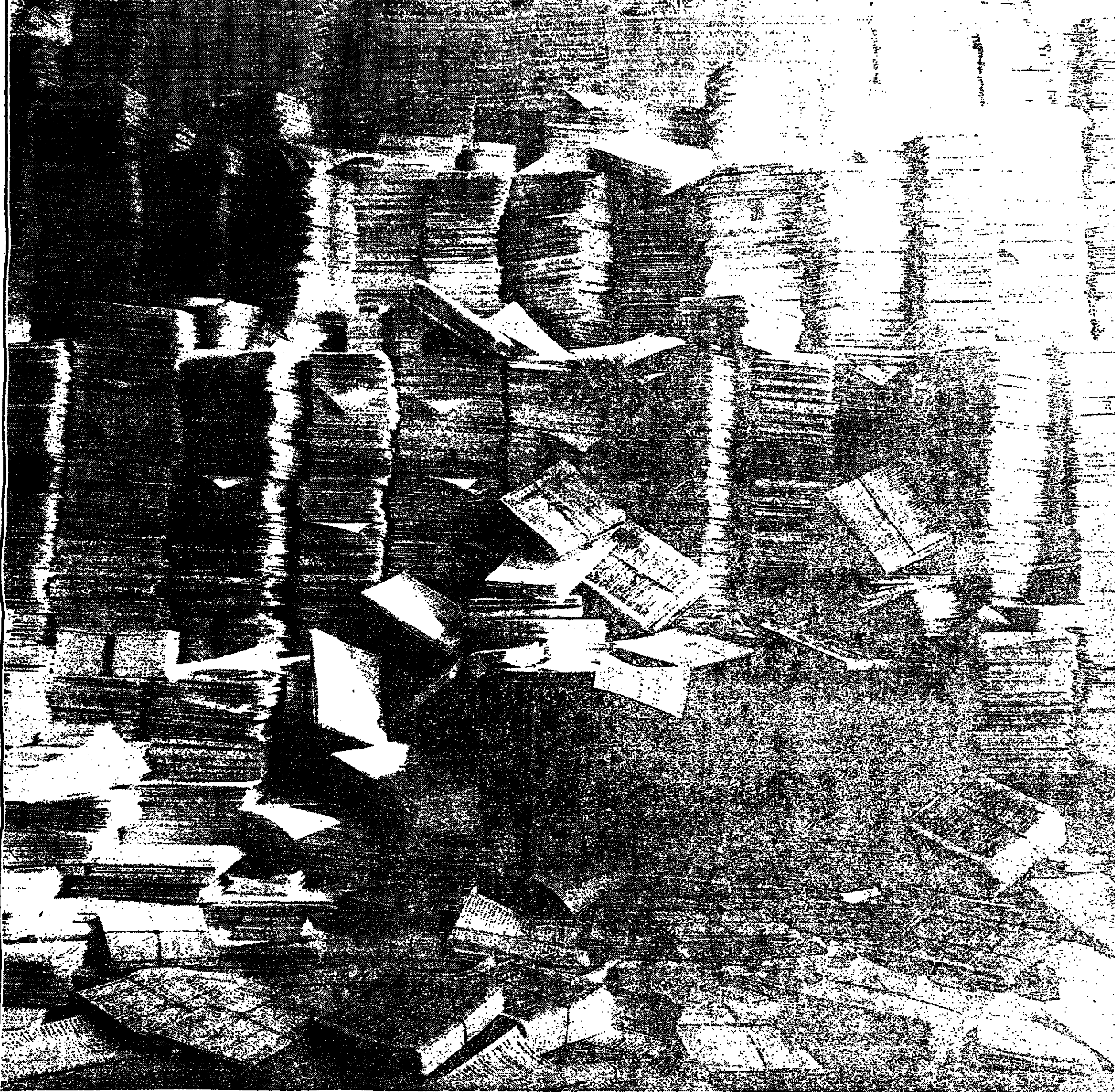
If you want copies of the 1990 Nine Months Statement, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs S-415 50, Göteborg, Sweden. Tel +46 (31) 371000

Average rate of exchange: Jan - Sept: 1986 1 GBP = 10.63 SEK, 1987 1 GBP = 10.24 SEK, 1988 1 GBP = 10.83 SEK, 1989 1 GBP = 10.69 SEK, 1990 1 GBP = 10.37 SEK.

AB SKF

SKF

Only one of the reasons Canon introduced Canofile



When you're faced with piles of paperwork, the hardest problem is where to file them. You end up with a messy desk and cluttered filing cabinets, which makes it almost impossible to find even yesterday's documents, let alone last year's!

Canon's simple solution is the Canofile 250 electronic filing system. It uses the advanced optical disk technology for fast and reliable high-volume storage. There are many more reasons why Canofile is the best choice.

It's a super-compact, desktop system. Emphasis is on ease-of-use, for both storage and rapid retrieval. Plus you get high-quality printouts in just a few seconds.

So when it comes to efficient office document archiving, choose the advanced yet affordable solution.

The Canofile 250 cleans up your desk – and, at the same time, puts all your office documents within easy reach. For further information simply complete and return this coupon

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Position: _____

Company: _____

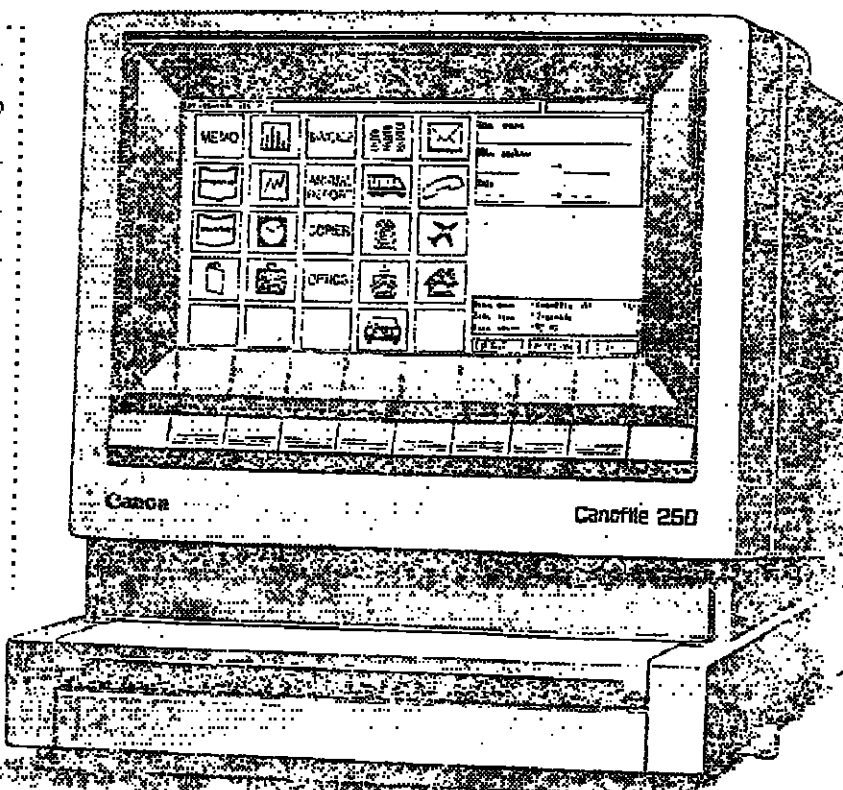
Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

TO: Canon (UK) LTD., Information Systems Division, Unit 1A, The Fleming Centre, Fleming Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2MM. Telephone: 0293 561180. Dial 100 and ask for freetone Canofile 250.

Canon

IF ANYONE CAN CANON CAN



Canofile 250

Desktop Electronic Filing System

STOCK MARKET

Profit worries push BTR shares to low

SHARES in the BTR industrial conglomerate slumped by 9p to a low of 282p amid mounting speculation that one leading securities house is about to make swinging cuts in its profit forecasts both for this year and 1991.

There is talk that the broker has decided to reduce its estimate for this year to below the £1 billion level. This would be considerably lower

son, both had their names mentioned as the brokers most likely to make downgradings. Once again, there was talk that BTR was considering a rights issue, but this was generally considered to be mischief-making on the part of market bears. Most dealers agree that a concerted effort is being made to drive the BTR price lower.

The rest of the equity market enjoyed a mark-up on growing hopes for another cut in interest rates after the call from the CBI. But there was little support and the gains were virtually halved by the close. The FT-SE 100 index was 28 points up before eventually finishing only 16.4 ahead at 2,050.3. The FT index of 30 shares rose 17.6 to 1,592.9.

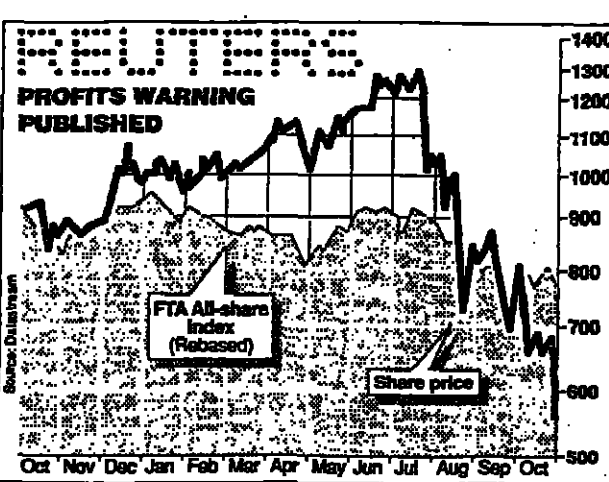
Government securities sported gains of 1/2 at the longer end, cheered by an interest-rate cut in France.

Reuters tumbled 52p to 555p after the group said it was going to postpone the launch of Dealing 2000, its automated foreign-exchange trading system, for six months of testing and that it planned to reduce the workforce in some areas by 300. The cost of the job losses is estimated at £10 million. As a result, the group is now forecasting pre-tax profits for the current year

than any other broker has contemplated so far. At present, most estimates range between £1 billion and £1.1 billion.

Last week, James Capel, the broker, reduced its forecast and on Monday Smith New Court cut its estimate for 1991 from £1.14 billion to £1.05 billion. It blamed the weak Australian dollar and lower volume and margin growth in America and Europe.

UBS Phillips & Drew and its rival, Kleinwort Ben-



of £320 million against £283 million last time.

Most estimates had been pitched at between £330 million and £335 million and analysts say that a question mark now hangs above the £400 million which had been generally forecast for 1991.

Clyde Petroleum fell 6p to 173p as Hoare Govett, the broker, placed a near 10 per cent holding belonging to DSM Energie, the Dutch group. The 31 million shares were placed at 170p each and buyers had to be scaled down. The placing has effectively eliminated any remaining bid speculation.

The rest of the oils suffered small losses as the price of

crude failed to take into account the increased tension in the Middle East. BP eased 1p to 334p and there were also declines for Barmah, 1p to 470p, Enterprise, 2p to 631p, Lasso, 7p to 438p, Richmond Oil & Gas, 2p to 96p, and Ultramar, 4p to 319p.

The market breathed a sigh of relief at the half-year figures from Marks and Spencer that turned out to be in line with expectations. Pre-tax profits rose from £208.7 million to £230.3 million and there was no sign of the gloomy trading statement which some bears had claimed last week would accompany the figures.

Chairman Lord Rayner said the results showed the group

maintaining a high level of performance in a deteriorating climate. Both the food and clothing sides made further progress despite the squeeze on consumer spending, but the financial services division saw profits decline from £5.7 million to £4 million because charge-card customers had decided to borrow less. The shares responded with a rise of 7p to 236p.

But there was bad news for shareholders in Scottish Heritable, the troubled property-futures group, down a further 1p to 13p. The shares have halved in value during the last two days. The group has given warning that conditions continue to deteriorate and it predicts losses of £5.5 million for the full year.

The group has secured temporary support from its bankers.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, slipped 1 1/2p to 171 1/2p after a downgrading of pre-tax profits by James Capel. Capel has cut its forecast for the current year by £5 million to £280 million and for 1991 by £40 million to £310 million. The broker blames rising fuel costs that have forced airlines to reduce expenditure on engine parts.

Rank Organisation rallied by 10p to 553p after Tuesday's year-end presentation for analysts that prompted them to

lower their profit estimates for both 1990 and 1991. But some brokers still believe the shares will fall as low as 500p by Christmas.

The banks also recovered some of their price in the wake of BZW's profit downgradings of both National Westminster and its own parent company, Barclays Bank, this week. Lloyds Bank rose 4p to 254p, Midland 12p to 189p,

BICC fell 20p to 316p - making a two-day decline of 45p - as profit downgradings continued.

Whisperers in the market claim that Warburg Securities has reduced its estimate for the current year from £210 million to £185 million, followed by £175 million for next year.

while NatWest held steady at 243p, Barclays rose 3p to 335p after announcing restructuring plans. Most analysts believe that a further round of belt-tightening by the big four banks to offset the growing problems of bad debts and static growth in investment income.

Standard Chartered, the troubled international banking group, made further headway, rising 8p to 258p - making a two-day advance of 14p.

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

Dow advance trimmed

New York SHARES rose in early trading, but blue chips slipped from their opening highs. The Dow Jones industrial average was 6 points up at 2,454.02 after rising by as much as 11 points. Analysts said the market was supported by firm bonds and firm dollar.

● Tokyo - The market closed slightly lower on continued profit-taking after the recent gains. The Nikkei average lost 48.3 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 25,194.10. (Reuters)

| | | | | | | | | |
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| Albion Lab | 41% | 41 | Enron | 80% | 80 | Crk Enrg | 40% | 40 |
| Alexa Lbr | 11% | 11 | Energy | 20% | 20 | Pac Ent | 35 | 35 |
| Altman | 11% | 11 | Ethyl | 20% | 20 | Pac Gas Inc | 43 | 44 |
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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Lloyds (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 2 | Drax (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 3 | Carlyle (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 4 | Unilever (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 5 | Union Carbide (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 6 | Marshall (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 7 | Admiral (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 8 | Hilberson (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 9 | Wimpey (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 10 | STC (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 11 | LEIC (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 12 | GLAXO (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 13 | Woolston (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 14 | Land Securities (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 15 | McKenzie (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 16 | Dalrymple (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 17 | Lacis (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 18 | Allied Colloids (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 19 | Smith Wm & A (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 20 | Proving (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 21 | Assoc B Ports (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 22 | Thames Pl (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 23 | Wessex Water (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 24 | RMC (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 25 | Granada (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 26 | TI (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 27 | Genent (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 28 | Standard (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 29 | BPD (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 30 | Warburg (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 31 | Hampshire (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 32 | Kierwatt (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 33 | Racal Telecom (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 34 | ASDA (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 35 | Wellcome (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 36 | Edwards (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 37 | Hepworth (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 38 | Chrysalis (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 39 | Boon (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 40 | Stratton (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 41 | Chrysalis (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 42 | Pearson (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 43 | Homes of Leisure (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |
| 44 | Thames TV (88) | 100.00 | +1.00 | +1.00 |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| | | | | |

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Margaret Murray, of Billingham, Cleveland.

BRITISH FUNDS

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

UNDATED

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

INDEX-LINKED

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| High Low | Share | Price | Change | % |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Mainly firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day November 5. Settlement day November 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

BREWERIES

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

BUILDING, ROADS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

FINANCE, LAND

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

FOODS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

DRAPERY, STORES

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

HOTELS, CATERERS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

INDUSTRIALS A-D

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

ELECTRICALS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

E-K

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

L-R

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

S-Z

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

OVERSEAS TRADERS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

PROPERTY

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

SHOES, LEATHER

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

TEXTILES

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

TOBACCO

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

TRANSPORT

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

INSURANCE

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

LEISURE

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

MINING

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

OILS, GAS

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

WATER

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | | |

WATER

| No. | Company | Share Price | Change | % |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---|
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WATER

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

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PROPERTY

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SHOES, LEATHER

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TOBACCO

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TRANSPORT

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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2. The second part of the document is a table of contents listing the chapters and their corresponding page numbers.

3. The third part of the document is a list of names, likely a roster of participants or contributors.

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 CLOSING

Smart moves to keep the costs down

Moving even one employee can cost £50,000. Rodney Hobson examines the CBI advice that relocation must be well planned to avert disaster

Transferring workers from one part of the country to another can cost businesses nearly £50,000 for every employee, the Confederation of British Industry estimates. Sue Shortland, the manager of the CBI's employee relocation council, says: "The basic costs of moving, including agents, legal and removal fees, plus assistance with disturbance costs and temporary accommodation, are about £11,000."

"When other expenses, such as bridging loan interest charges and house-hunting costs are taken into account, this can double. A company's relocation costs can increase by another £24,000 if employers make payments towards employees' additional mortgage-interest charges."

"The bill rises even further if employers pay for any losses on the sale of property in a declining market."

Even moving a worker within the same building can be expensive. One company that specialises in relocation, the FM group, based in Crawley, West Sussex, estimates that the average cost of relocating an office worker within existing premises is £1,840. During 1989, an average company moved two-thirds of its office staff internally.

The CBI, worried by the potential costs, held a con-

ference to help its members monitor relocation costs and examine ways of making relocation policies more cost-effective. The CBI believes the revaluation of business premises and the uniform business rate were bound to increase the pressure on companies to move away from London and the southeast.

Miss Shortland says: "Companies in the region faced tremendous increases in rates bills. Even before the changes in the rating system, companies were experiencing higher rents and shortages of space. The civil service is already transferring many staff to the north and Midlands. Eight thousand jobs were moved from London last year, and the figures for this year are likely to increase by at least 20 per cent."

Other problems that the CBI has found in the southeast include the difficulty of recruiting and retaining skilled staff and traffic congestion costing businesses an estimated £10 billion a year.

If employees live in or commute from the southeast into London, congestion also adds to the costs, both human and financial, that companies have to meet.

Companies have to accept that moving is very much a family affair. The CBI says that working wives often resist when companies try to move their husbands' jobs to another part of the country.

The CBI believes that the problem will grow with the increasing number of married women entering the labour market. A husband can be equally hostile when his wife's employer wants to shift her to another town.

A CBI survey found that a third of the 130 companies questioned had employees who were refusing relocation because it would mean loss of career progress for wives or husbands.

To combat this, CBI members are developing policies to deal with the dilemma of the



Going away: Pickfords handles the relocation of a company to the other side of the world. Most moves, however, are less ambitious and the motives are usually financial

working spouse. Nearly one in ten members offers a spouse employment package, giving financial compensation and practical assistance such as career counselling, preparing job applications and assistance in searching for opportunities in the company's new location.

Miss Shortland says: "Couples are becoming increasingly dependent on dual incomes. A relocation and subsequent loss of one income can have a devastating effect on their lifestyle. In addition, the spouse or partner may be losing financial independence, which adds to the stress of relocation."

"If the couple decides that the spouse should remain in the old location while the employee moves to the new area, with long-distance commuting at weekends, this may jeopardise the couple's relationship. It is also likely to affect the employee's performance at work."

Jim McCredie, the head of relocation at the management

consultants KPMG Peat Marwick, says it is difficult to assess whether staff costs, staff availability or the cost of premises is the main factor in persuading companies to relocate. He thinks that cost of property is probably the main prompt for a move out of London. Rent and rates in London are likely to run up to £60 a sq ft. If an employee occupies 100 sq ft, that is £6,000. The same space in the provinces may cost £20 a sq ft or less, a saving per employee of £4,000 a year.

Mr McCredie says companies have used the sale of premises to finance a move to a bigger factory with new equipment, not just in London but wherever existing premises can be granted planning permission for housing or shopping development. Staff at managerial level, he says, are more inclined to go with the company on a long-distance move than lower-paid workers.

He adds: "Clerical staff are probably less on a career path than management people. They will look for another job

rather than feel that they are locked into the company. Often the spouse is working in a job in the same regional location and that means changing two jobs. Particularly in London, where clerical workers are in demand, salaries are high and the worker can join another company."

He says that longer-serving members of staff will often make the trip because they have built up a career path and pension rights. Companies

worry that young professionals with three to five years' service will leave.

"There is a rather short-sighted view that the only centre for professionals is in London," he says. "Companies ask whether there are good accountants in Runcorn or Birmingham."

Mr McCredie trains employers how to break the news of an impending move to staff. Generally, he says, it is best not to tell employees until it is

possible to answer any questions they may raise and to explain to them the advantages of the move. They need to know what options are available, what the transfer terms are and what severance compensation will be. However, some public-sector staff are involved from day one and that can work well, so long as managers are prepared to face rumblings of discontent while details are thrashed out.

Mr McCredie also advises

clients not to become obsessed with grants, nor to consider them irrelevant when they are making a decision on a move. They should be viewed as part of an overall financial appraisal, he says.

Miss Shortland at the CBI says: "Moving should not be considered lightly. Companies need to be conscious of all the implications of moving premises and all relocation exercises must be well planned to avert disaster."



Jim McCredie: cheaper rents

The parks that bring in the business

Business parks have helped to encourage companies to relocate.

Now competition among the parks themselves has produced a more sophisticated approach and the emphasis is on amenities and location rather than the bare buildings. Many tenants move only a short distance, to stay near their town centre (Rodney Hobson writes).

Jeremy Williams, a director at Redrow, which has developed a business park in northeast Wales, says: "You have only got to queue for a car parking space to know what convenience is about."

St David's Park is in Clywd, six miles across the border from Chester. Its capacity will be 500,000 sq ft, of which 125,000 sq ft are booked and 50,000 sq ft are already operational. Tenants have come from nearby towns.

Alex Robinson, the managing director of UK Land Developments, which is building Northampton Business Park on 54 acres only a mile from the town

Roads and restaurants among the attractions

centre, is another executive who does not scorn the humble parking lot. He says: "Parking is still the single most important factor. The big attraction is that there is room for visitors and staff." The Northampton park has 1,000 spaces.

Motorways have been another factor determining location. A prime example has been the re-generation of South Wales. The M4 provides a fast link with London, and particularly Heathrow, Bedfordshire, with the M1 and M11, and its own airport at Luton, has seen business parks proliferate.

However, greater emphasis is now being put on people. Mr Williams says: "You have to have public transport. There have to be amenities on site for

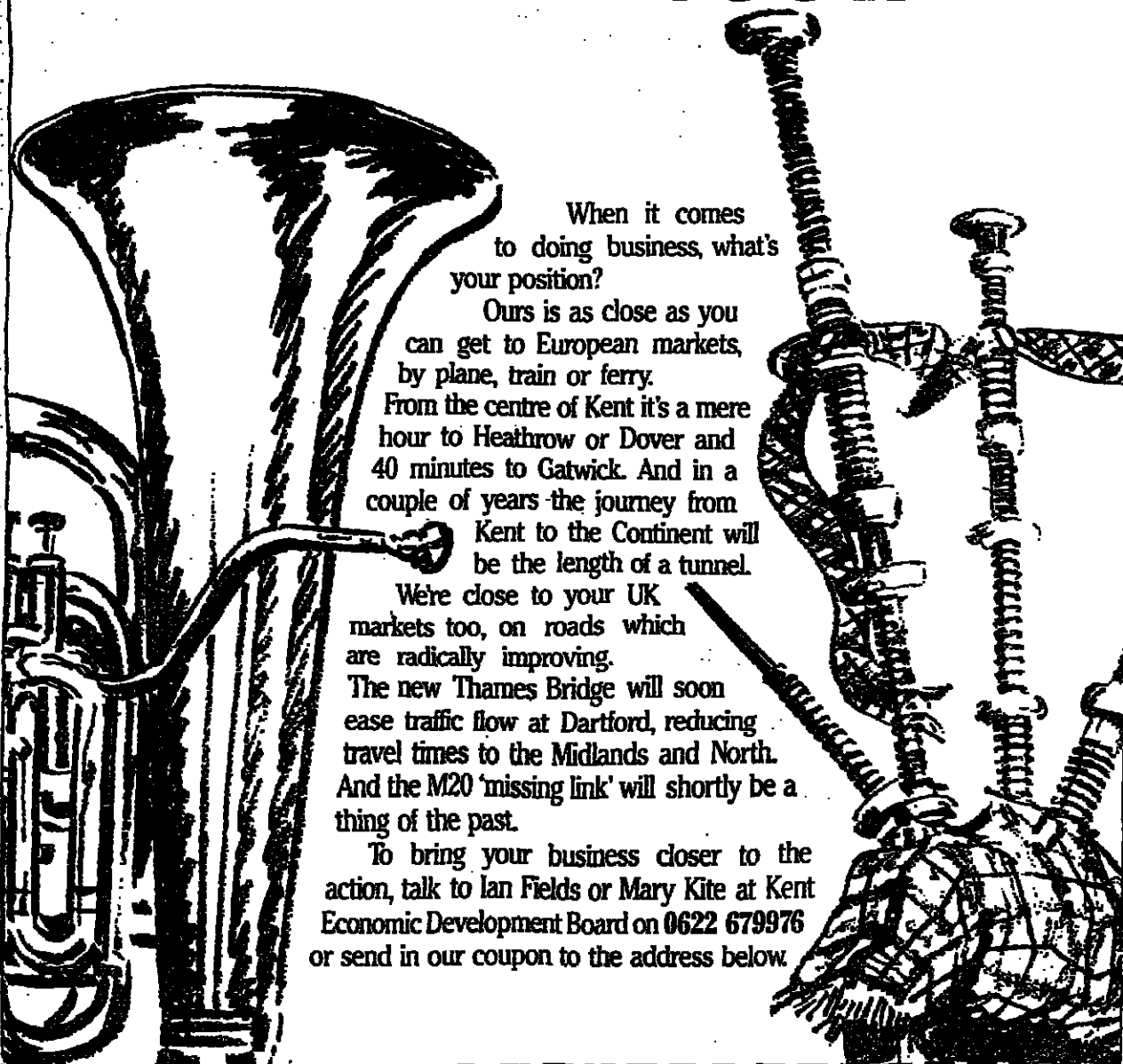
people who live within the park. If they cannot get a bite to eat at lunchtime and find somewhere to buy a newspaper, they will not be happy." Mr Robinson says a bank, a wine bar, a modestly priced restaurant and a sandwich bar should be within walking distance.

Many of the employees recruited locally for companies moving to business parks are mothers returning to work. Crèches and day-care facilities are now regarded as important.

Hotels and conference and leisure facilities are highly rated by incoming companies. Northampton, for example, is considering providing a gym, a dance studio, a tennis court and a jogging track.

Mr Robinson says: "Building a successful business park is not like constructing a factory to the required size and selling it. It is very much a living thing and you have got to cater for several thousand people who are going to spend eight hours a day there."

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THE FIRST COUNTY IN SOUTH WALES

Welcome Celtic revival



Switching the scene: David Brown (left), the executive director (London) of Locate in Scotland, and Robert Rayland, the general manager of Crusader Insurance, at the former Scott Lithgow shipyard in Greenock, near Glasgow, where the company's headquarters are being relocated.

Some people think homes in south Wales do not have running water, says Chris Sheehan, of the Welsh Development Agency. That is one of the more extreme prejudices Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish agencies have had to break down to attract businesses from the southeast and abroad. "Wales," Mr Sheehan says, "has been seen as a backwater."

David Brown, the executive director (London) of Locate in Scotland, a joint initiative of the Scottish Development Agency and the Scottish Office, says Scotland, too, used to be thought of as being on the fringes of Europe. Constraints on the growth of companies in southeast England have changed that. "The young banker or manager," Mr Brown says, "now sees career opportunities in Scotland."

Frank Galbraith, the executive director at the Northern Ireland Business Centre in London, adds: "Manufacturing skills are available and our young people have relatively high education levels."

Educated workforces are now showing how Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have been underrated, Rodney Hobson writes

Mr Brown says the same of Scotland: "The strength of the academic system holds the key to the future. We produce more graduates per head of population than any other country in Europe."

"The average annual staffing turnover in Scotland is only 6 per cent. I meet directors of leading banks and software companies based elsewhere who complain of staff turnovers of more than 30 per cent a year. It is not in their interests to persevere with that burden."

Although financial incentives provide icing on the cake, it is not the prime consideration. "We tend to put financial assistance at the bottom of the heap," Mr Galbraith says.

Nevertheless, financial considerations are part of the lure. Mr Brown says: "A company office

employing 200 people in the centre of London could save £3 million a year by moving to Glasgow or Edinburgh, £2.5 million on staffing and the rest on property."

All three countries claim growing success rates in attracting new businesses. Mr Galbraith says: "Our last financial year, to March, was the most successful yet." Mr Brown adds: "Last year was a record one for projects, with £850 million in investment holding out prospects of 12,000 new jobs."

Although financial incentives provide icing on the cake, it is not the prime consideration. "We tend to put financial assistance at the bottom of the heap," Mr Galbraith says.

Nevertheless, financial considerations are part of the lure. Mr Brown says: "A company office

Mr Sheehan, the manager of the financial services initiative for Wales, says: "There was a feeling in the southeast that only the home counties could support banking and consultancy services." He lists Chemical Bank and Price Waterhouse as some of the bankers and accountants who have moved to south Wales.

Although many companies are drawn from southeast England, foreign companies are pouring investment into Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Japanese companies, including Sony and Mitsubishi, have set up in Wales. The latest large recruit is from Germany. Robert Bosch is starting an engineering plant just outside Cardiff in the new year, its first big investment in the UK. Scotland, too, has fared well in attracting American companies.

Mr Sheehan probably speaks for all three when he sums up: "It does take a bit of hammering in, but those who made the decision to come here have been pleased."

The exodus from the southeast includes 40,000 civil servants

Ministries go to the country

More than 40,000 civil servants will have left London and the southeast between 1979, when the present government came into office, and the mid Nineties. The figure is not final but is calculated on the numbers already moved and present plans to disperse departments (Michael Hayfield writes).

Four out of five civil servants now work outside London, 17 per cent are in the southeast and 62 per cent elsewhere. Key centres are Nottingham, Leeds, Teesside, Liverpool, Bristol, Newport, Glasgow and Belfast — areas that are the focus of the government's regional or inner-city policies.

Ministers and civil servants agree that sound relocation can benefit many parties. Departments can reduce their spending on accommodation and recruitment, and civil servants say that staff leaving London's expensive housing and crowded transport systems appreciate the better amenities and quality of life in their new locations.

The relocation benefits were illustrated in a Scottish Office report, evaluating the dispersal of part of the Overseas Development Administration from London to East Kilbride. The report showed that, as well as cutting costs, the move had benefited management, staff and the region.

The implementation of plans may take a long time. Richard Ryder, the economic secretary to the Treasury, included in a recent statement on relocation plans the defence ministry's proposal to disperse 6,500 posts, but some moves will be as late as 1995.

The policy of moving civil servants was triggered partly by the Hardman Report in 1973, although the guidelines were changed considerably two years ago. In the mid Seventies the then

| PLANNED DISPERSALS | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| DEPARTMENT AND DISPERSAL LOCATION | NO OF POSTS | LIKELY TIMING |
| Defence ministry | | |
| Bristol | 3,800 | 1993 onwards |
| Teesside | 1,600 | 1993-95 |
| Bath/Bristol | 600 | 1992-93 |
| Sutton Coldfield | 200 | 1990-91 |
| Llangennech | 180 | 1990-91 |
| Bath | 156 | 1990-91 |
| Harrogate | 18 | 1990 |
| Total | 6,554 | |
| Inland Revenue | | |
| Nottingham | 1,800 | 1992-93 |
| Various | 976 | 1990-92 |
| Total | 2,776 | |
| DSS | | |
| Leeds | 800 | 1992-93 |
| Glasgow | 450 | 1990-91 |
| Belfast | 330 | 1990-91 |
| Wigan | 220 | 1990-91 |
| Newcastle | 64 | 1990-92 |
| Manchester | 37 | 1990-91 |
| Total | 1,901 | |
| HM Customs | | |
| Liverpool | 1,250 | 1993-94 |
| Manchester | 430 | 1990-93 |
| Total | 1,680 | |
| Home Office | | |
| Midlands | 1,000 | 1993-95 |
| Merseyside | 120 | 1991-93 |
| Total | 1,120 | |
| Dept of Health | | |
| Leeds | 1,000 | 1992-93 |

The total planned relocation for all departments covers 17,000 posts

government began a centrally managed dispersal programme stipulating that particular departments had to move jobs from London and the southeast to development areas. The emphasis was on assisting regional development, rather than efficiency.

The incoming Tory government continued the policy but carried out a review, and in March 1988 Peter Brooke, as Paymaster-General, issued new guidelines. Central targets would no longer be set, and the departmental ministers would decide what should be moved and where. Every department had to review the location of all its work. The aim was to identify cases in which a new location might offer improved efficiency, easier labour markets and better value for money.

Ministers, however, do not have a totally free hand. They must consider the government's wider regional development and inner-city policies. The over-riding principle is value for money. The guidelines envisage three stages:

● A preliminary overall review to identify activities that appear suitable for relocation.

● Detailed analysis of promising cases and consideration of possible locations, in consultation with the regional policy and territorial departments and others, leading to a decision in principle.

● Detailed plans if the decision is for relocation.

The Treasury monitors departmental progress, but its role is not prescriptive. Departments report their plans to the Treasury every year in the Public Expenditure Survey. Sometimes they seek Treasury help with costs.



Comtrans relocating Lloyds Bank computers from London to the company's new base

Logging a computer move

EVEN THE experts in the field of relocation are specialising. More and more companies are planning to move, so the moving company, Comtrans, set up in 1977, has introduced a computing and electronics relocation service.

The service finds out what specialist handling equipment, vehicles and crews will be needed. Comtrans says its staff is trained in the handling, loading, securing and transporting of fragile electronic equipment, and in disconnecting and reconnecting.

If the building or computer room at the new location needs adapting, a statement of the requirements is produced, and changes made. During the relocation, staff dismantle the

equipment, pack it, transport it, re-install it and run tests. John Dobbie, a general manager at Comtrans, says: "It takes away the worry from a company that will already have enough on its plate with the movement of other equipment. A company does not want to have to think about the actual dismantling and re-installing of electronic equipment, although it is vital to the company's operation."

A prime challenge was to relocate the retail division of Lloyds Bank from ten London and two Bristol sites to one purpose-built site in Bristol. The relocation was spread over seven weekends to minimise disruption and required 63 vehicles and 175 specialist removal staff to shift more than 11,000 items.

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Carlisle holds a winning hand

Carlisle may be in the bottom half of the fourth division of the Football League, but economically it is one of Britain's leading potential growth areas for the Nineties. The attraction for investment, which is what relocation brings, is partly reflected in the quality of life.

People have more room in which to move than most of their regional counterparts, and they have more money to spend than most. Carlisle is also the only northern town of its size with two luxury car-dealers. Newcastle upon Tyne has four.

A statistical profile of Carlisle, set against 20 other towns, showed it had one of the biggest falls in unemployment over five years, both nationally and regionally.

These characteristics put Carlisle among the 30 "winners" with dynamic growth potential for the Nineties, named by the Henley Centre for Forecasting in its Local Futures report this summer. The regional futures unit spent more than six months examining economic and demographic data and came to some interesting, if tentative, conclusions.

John Rigg, the centre's director of policy analysis, says: "These towns and cities have a lot going for them. If they do not do well in the Nineties then the UK is in very serious difficulties."

The report, which analysed 322 local travel-to-work areas, identi-

Thirty towns and cities in Britain have been tipped for greater prosperity in the Nineties.

Michael Hatfield explains why



John Rigg: "competition"

cities identified as future winners in attracting investment and exploiting potential growth.

"Beyond London there is fierce competition to attract the investment," Mr Rigg says. "There is growing competition between town and city areas which may not get as much, but it is going to become increasingly competitive."

In the picking of the winners, the factors determining economic prosperity in the regions, especially the supply influences on business location, were labour supply; proximity to markets; road, rail and sea links; property availability and price; quality of life; proximity to suppliers; and availability of grants.

Although the criteria may not have been controversial, some of the conclusions could be. The availability of grants, for example, was seen to be no longer the attraction that the planning aspirants of Whitehall in the Sixties

and Seventies thought they would be. There also has to be a change of image. Leeds could be a classic example. The city was once the centre of the South Yorkshire woolen and engineering industry, but there are now nearly as many people (17.2 per cent) employed in transport and communication, banking, finance, insurance and business services, as there are in manufacturing (23.5 per cent).

Mr Rigg says the M62 has also given Leeds accessibility and a link with Hull as a port.

Manchester is not in the northwest's list of winners, not because there is no growth potential but because, under the criteria, the centre did not believe it had "above-average potential for dynamic economic activity" in the Nineties. Chester, Macclesfield and Warrington were seen as cores of dynamic growth.

The study emphasises that the economies outside the southeast will grow more slowly than the average but it says: "We do not view their prospects with uniform pessimism."

Several regions - the West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, the northwest, Scotland and Wales - have centres of economic activity that are now relatively buoyant and will sustain growth at between 2 and 3 per cent. Companies wishing to relocate may well turn to these centres, Mr Rigg says.

Former "boom" areas, such as

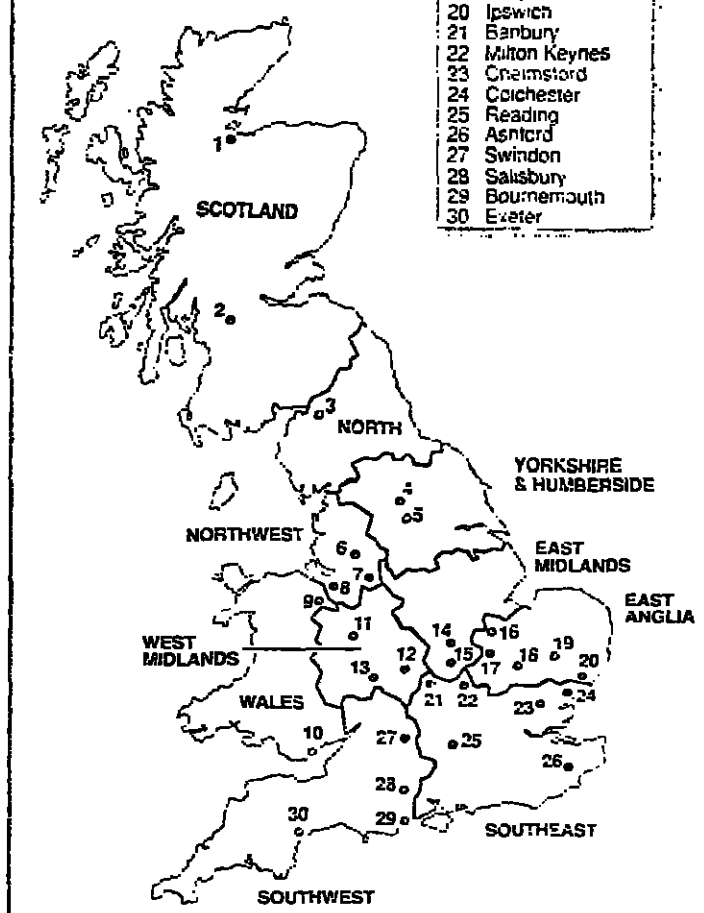
Bristol in the southwest, may be victims of their own success in the Eighties. Mr Rigg agrees that the ripple of commercial and industrial activity that ran down the M4 high-tech, entrepreneurial corridor may now have passed over Bristol because of its overheated economy, and has instead spread down into Wales or radially outwards. That partly explains why Exeter, Salisbury, Swindon in the southwest and Cardiff and Wrexham in Wales have pushed their way up through the mass of economic and demographic data in the Henley study to surface as regional winners.

One of the keys to local prosperity is the interaction of demand and supply - that is, the ability of the locality to supply goods and service at competitive prices and of suitable quality. It is this interaction between house prices, office rents, warehouse space, transport, shopping and leisure that helped the centre to produce its list of winners.

Mr Rigg says the centre has long held the view that for the UK to maintain a satisfactory growth rate, it must develop its expertise in producing high value-added, skill-based goods and services. Industrial sectors with above average prospects include pharmaceuticals, electronic engineering and precision instrument-making. High value-added producer services - legal, financial, advertising and marketing - also have an important role.

NINETIES WINNERS

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Inverness | 7 Macclesfield | 13 Worcester |
| 2 Glasgow | 8 Chester | 14 Kenning |
| 3 Carlisle | 9 Wrexham | 15 Northampton |
| 4 Harrogate | 10 Cardiff | 16 Peterborough |
| 5 Leeds | 11 Telford | 17 Huntingdon |
| 6 Warrington | 12 Warrington | 18 Cambridge |
| | | 19 Bury St Edmunds |
| | | 20 Ipswich |
| | | 21 Banbury |
| | | 22 Milton Keynes |
| | | 23 Chesham |
| | | 24 Colchester |
| | | 25 Reading |
| | | 26 Ashted |
| | | 27 Swindon |
| | | 28 Salisbury |
| | | 29 Bournemouth |
| | | 30 Exeter |



City goes on show to sell itself

Milton Keynes offers a special service to companies thinking of moving there

When a company moves to another town, one of its biggest worries is that it will lose valuable staff. "Putting people first" is the priority of the relocation service run by Milton Keynes Development Corporation in Buckinghamshire (David Rudnick writes).

Suzanne Shaw, who heads the relocation team, says from her ten years' experience that moving can be a very traumatic time for a company, especially if the staff equation is not handled properly.

Milton Keynes puts a lot of effort into smoothing the path of companies moving to the city. The corporation regards its relocation service as good business, an important contributor to attracting corporate residents. Unlike the services offered by commer-

The move starts with a written proposal by the corporation on how the company might handle its move, and what its impact on staff is likely to be.

Any relocation benefits that could be offered to staff are also considered at this stage, usually with the company's personnel department. The proposal also tells companies how to obtain advice on possible tax liabilities facing employees who receive any company relocation benefits.

The next stage consists of giving the staff a presentation, showing the special features of life in Milton Keynes, including its housing, education, health-care facilities and opportunities for entertainment. The employees are encouraged to ask questions and are given detailed information packs.

Finally, staff are taken to see Milton Keynes. They tour the city, looking at the company's prospective new site, and at the housing and other amenities. They are then free to go shopping in the city centre in the afternoon. Mrs Shaw says: "The tour is a valuable way of helping staff feel comfortable about the move. It is one thing to be told about the city, but seeing it is really the best way to learn about it."

Milton Keynes is prepared to give considerable time to its induction service. When the bulk retailer Argos moved its administration headquarters there in 1987, the relocation team worked every day for four weeks on the initial briefings and familiarisation tours. Up to three months can be spent advising a company on its relocation.

Milton Keynes has been offering these relocation services since its development corporation was established in 1967 and has attracted more than 2,500 companies, including 260 foreign businesses, without the aid of financial incentives such as regional aid or enterprise zone allowances.

With an average of three companies taking space in the city every week, the relocation service has become a vital and well-used resource.

"We often get repeat business," Mrs Shaw says. "Some companies relocate within the city as it expands."



Suzanne Shaw: team leader

cial relocation consultants, the Milton Keynes scheme is free to any company.

Milton Keynes likes to emphasise its concern for the human touch, rather than the technical or physical aspects of relocation.

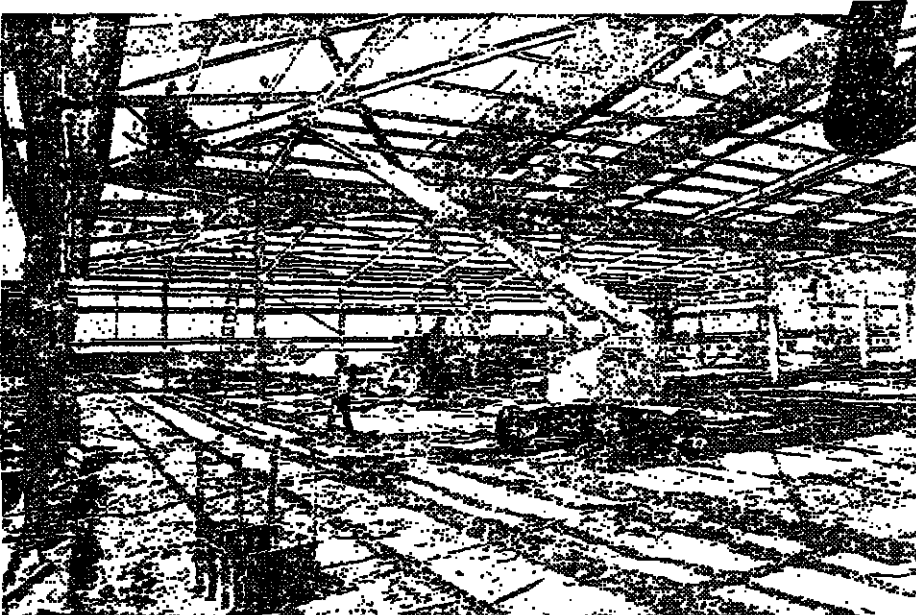
Mrs Shaw says: "We try to make staff happy about moving to Milton Keynes. This can help to provide the obvious employer benefit of maintaining morale and productivity."

She believes the needs of the workforce should be at the forefront of any planned move because the implications for staff "can spell the difference between success and failure, but are often forgotten in the hurry-burry of planning a move."

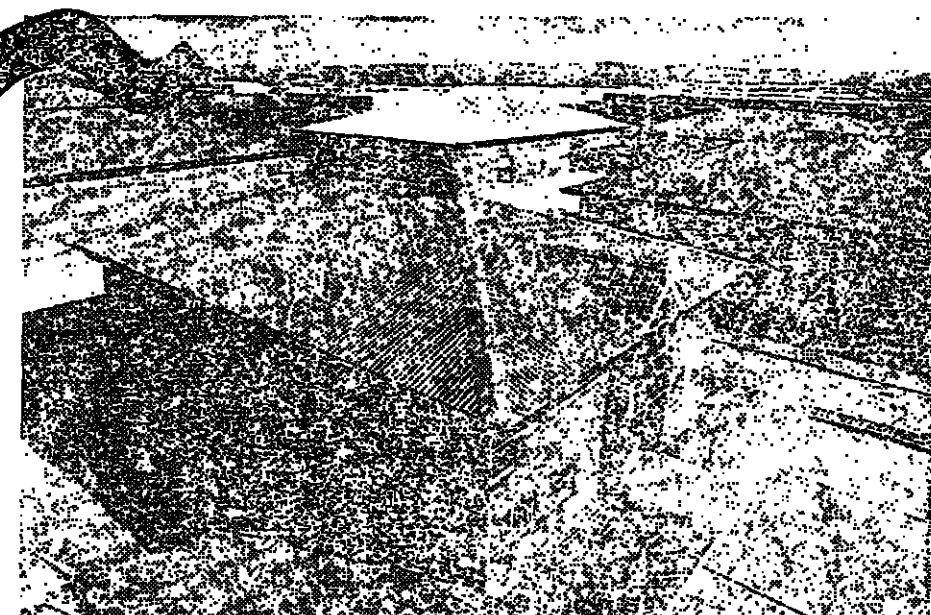
Mrs Shaw and her team are often closely involved in the initial relocation discussions between a prospective company and the corporation.

TEES/SIDE

THE UK'S BIGGEST NEW URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



1,000,000 sq ft of new retail and leisure space at Teeside Park is fast taking shape. Toys 'R Us, the world's largest toy sellers, recently opened a 44,000 sq ft store, in good time for Christmas. Other participating retailers - including B&Q, WH Smith's Do-It-All, Iceland Frozen Foods and Comet will be trading by Spring 1990.

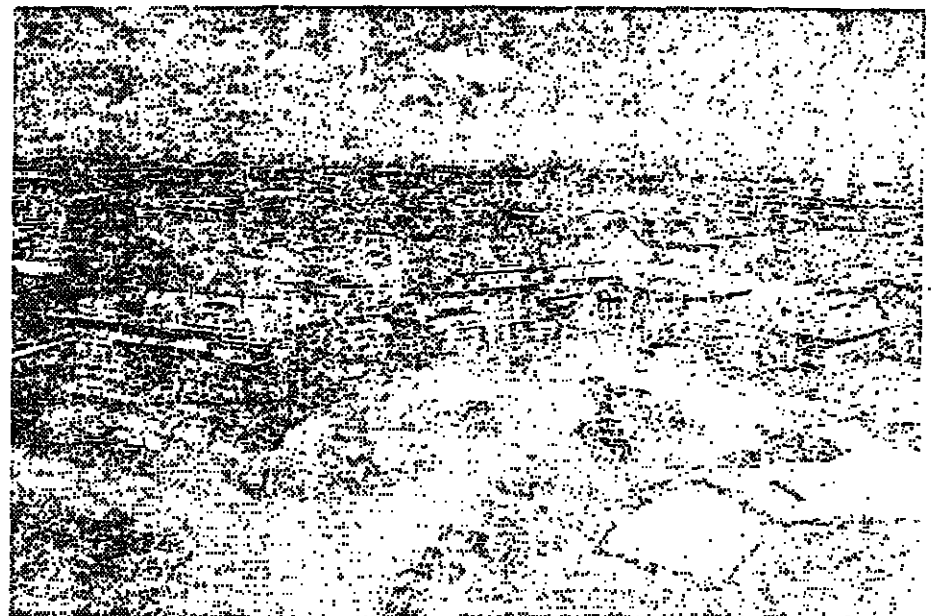
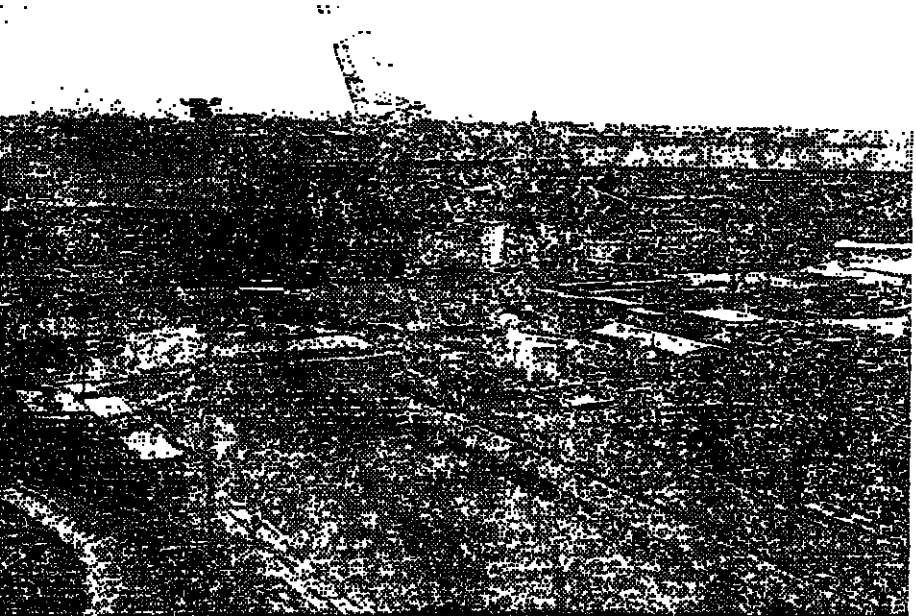


The first phase of development at Preston Farm Business Park, comprising 100,000 sq ft of floor space, will be complete by the end of October. The units, available in options of 5,000 - 18,000 sq ft, include office space (25%) and light industrial space (75%) suitable for warehousing, light manufacturing, laboratory work or office conversion. The finished Business Park will total 400,000 sq ft of floor space.

WHERE £500m OF WORK IS IN PROGRESS

Phase I of OTEC, Teeside's Ocean Technology Centre, has been concluded. This unique facility simulates both a seabed environment and wellhead product to test work techniques and equipment. OTEC has recently seen the completion of the Goodfellow Associates GASP project and the facility already has many subsea research projects for 1991. Phase II of the development will add two wet test wells for subsea-oriented well-servicing operations.

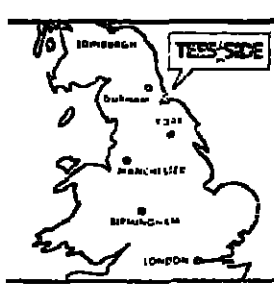
At Hartlepool Renaissance, work is rapidly progressing on 10a homes at Lovell's Warrior Quay, the first of the housing developments on the site. Other work in Hartlepool includes the laying down of infrastructure, refurbishing the dock and sea defence walls, and replacing the existing lock gates. When complete, Hartlepool Renaissance will include 1500 homes, a 450 berth marina, shops, restaurants and tourist attractions.



Plans are now becoming realities as building work is progressing on almost all Teeside Development Corporation's flagship schemes. On Teesdale, the 250 acre flagship scheme central to Teeside's regeneration, over one million tonnes of material have been moved and over 16 miles of roads and services installed. Work has begun to provide the first 258,000 sq ft of offices, a restaurant, hotel, public house and both public and private sector housing.

Teesdale, Teeside Park, Hartlepool Marina, Preston Farm and OTEC - all with work progressing on site, all part of the UK's biggest urban development project.

For more details contact: Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teeside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS21 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636 Fax: (0642) 230843.



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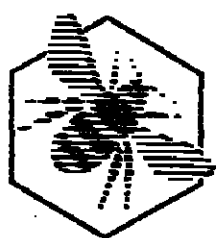
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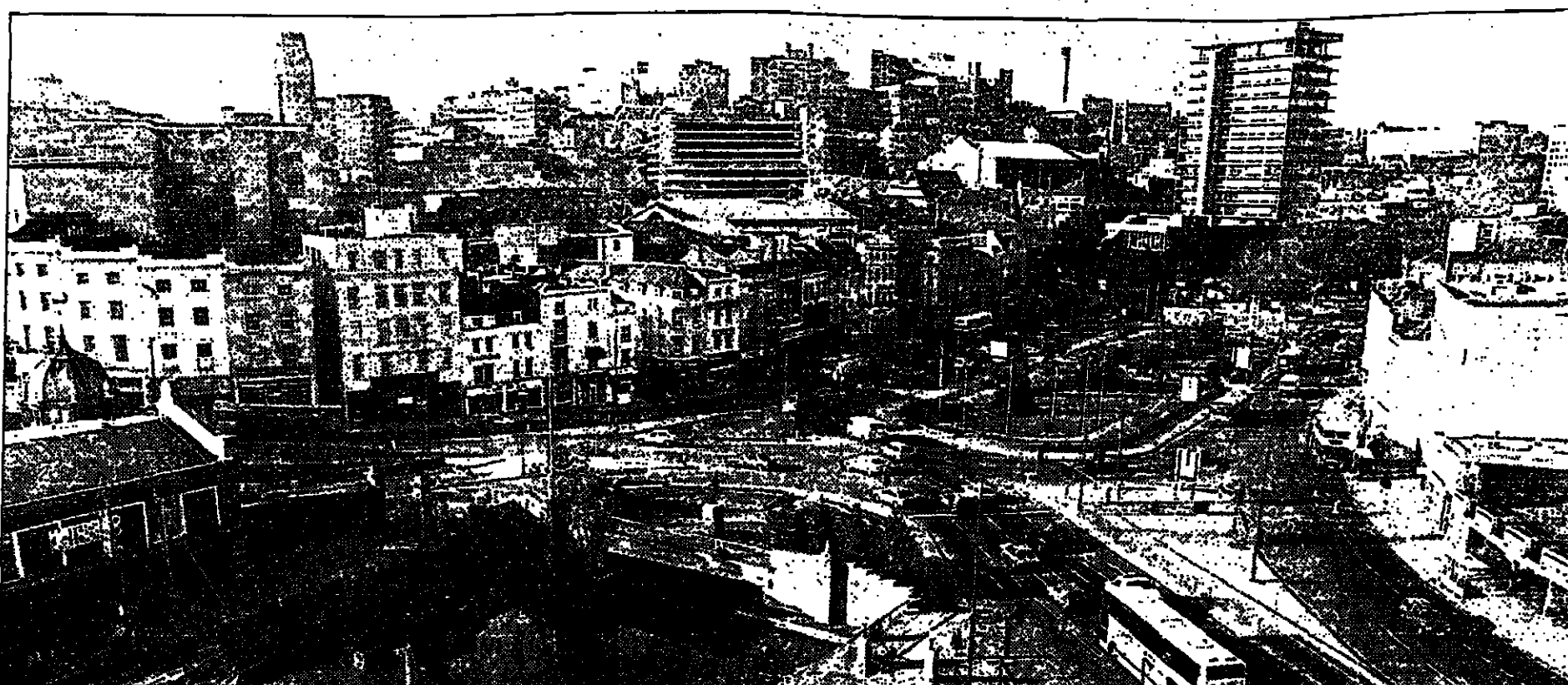
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RELOCATION/4

FOCUS

Efficient planning and management participation are vital components of a successful move. Widget Finn reports



Top of the list: Lloyds Bank chose Bristol as the new site for its retail banking office. House prices, local facilities and transport were important considerations

Companies offering financial services have done their sums and found that, with a saving in office rental of up to £60 per square foot, it makes sense to move out of the City of London. However, although cost is an important reason for moving, Hugh Stebbing, the managing director of Lloyds Commercial Properties, emphasises that relocation has to be seen as part of the overall business strategy.

"You do not move people to a new location because the figures look attractive," Mr Stebbing says. "You have to look carefully at what the business does and who it is trying to service, or you may find that the business cannot survive in a different locale."

In 1986, Lloyds Bank produced a study of its head office operations carried out in 37 buildings in central London. Its UK retail banking head office, which supports the branch network across the country, was identified as a candidate for relocation. Since its activities were national, there was no need for it to be based in London. In 1988, the first phase of relocation began.

Lloyds Bank intends to move 1,800 jobs from London to Cannonsway, Bristol, where the

Sorting out a strategy for swapping sites

new head office is based. With Blackhorse Relocation, its subsidiary, acting as an expert adviser, the bank drew up an initial list of 79 towns that met the criteria of appropriate rents and a maximum travel time of two hours from London.

"We also felt it was important for the centre to have a population base of more than 75,000 people so that the bank did not dominate the local workforce," Mr Stebbing says. "There had to be a well-established business community with a healthy job market. At the short-list stage we did a 12-point assessment of locations."

"These included staff issues, such as town image, house prices and local facilities, and operational factors such as travel, road and rail links and local authority enthusiasm. Bristol came top."

The support of the local authority was also an important factor when Thomas Cook decided to relocate its administrative departments to Peterborough in 1976.

"Peterborough Development Corporation was very welcoming and helpful in sorting out practical problems," says Rosemary Rowntree, the director of human resources at Thomas Cook.

"The area attracted us because there was land available to build new offices, rather than take over existing accommodation."

"There was a plentiful supply of good housing available, covering a wide range of prices, which is important when you are moving upwards of 1,000 jobs."

Relocation counselling was carefully planned. "We used consultancy support because this is the

sort of move which an organisation will probably only do once in a lifetime and we do not have the specialist skills in-house," Ms Rowntree says. "The reactions of our employees were probably typical of people who relocate."

At first there was concern and anxiety, then a period of excitement when they looked at opportunities in the new environment then, after the honeymoon period was over, many were worried about cutting ties with friends and family. "But if you talk to the same people now they would say that it would take dynamite to move them out of the Peterborough area," she says.

When Gill Webb, Thomas Cook's personnel officer, first visited Peterborough in 1976 she thought it was

"out in the sticks". The train took nearly two hours, the shopping was poor and there was little night life. Property, however, was cheap, particularly for people moving from the southeast.

Ms Webb also found that recruitment was easier away from the capital. "Local industry had been mainly engineering, but we were able to offer new opportunities. We recruited within a 30-mile radius of the city and found a high standard of staff with good potential."

Ms Webb has seen considerable change in Peterborough in the past 15 years. "Now the city is quite cosmopolitan. Shopping and leisure facilities are superb. I would not dream of moving back to London."

Mr Stebbing sees relocation counselling for employees and their families as a vital part of the process of moving a business. "You have to invest a lot of time in managing the move and in seeing it from the perspective of the people involved."

"If staff see that you are half-hearted then they are not going to be enthusiastic about the exercise. It is very important that the top people move as well as the middle managers. That sort of leadership is part of the management process."

Problems can become a family affair

When an employee moves, a whole family may be affected. Research by Reading university suggests it is the spouses and children who suffer if relocation goes wrong. Dr Charlie Lewis, a lecturer in psychology, says: "The most clear finding of our study was that relocated mothers not only appeared to be coping less well than their husbands, many also reported symptoms of psychological disturbance."

"This is a symptom of a more general family stress after a move, and provides support for previous claims that it is wives who are the real casualties. Mothers should be the focus of attention by relocation firms."

Relocated women tended to complain more about feeling rundown and having head-

A move that goes wrong may put the whole family at risk of stress-related illness, according to a recent study

aches. They also were more likely to feel under strain, lose sleep and feel that they were not playing a useful role. They were not, however, more likely to suffer from severe depression. In three out of four cases where mothers had difficulty in readjusting, so too did the children. Mothers, the survey showed, were the emotional barometers of the family system.

In the report, prepared for Nationwide Anglia Relocation, Dr Lewis says: "The better a mother's readjustment, the more confident her child felt about his or her social acceptance, close friendships and general self-worth. Parents who had moved described their children as less well-adjusted. They were less likely to have a best friend and were said to be less positive about school and to row with their parents more often."

found that fathers tended to evaluate recent events in a more positive light than fathers of families that had stayed put.

One interesting finding was that parents tended to worry more about how their children were coping than the children did. "Relocated children did not seem to be as disturbed as anecdotal evidence suggests," Dr Lewis says. "Yet the parents tended to suggest that their children were experiencing some difficulties."

The research showed that even two years after relocation some mothers were still experiencing distress. "This suggests a need for a relocation service which supports families, particularly spouses, and not just relocated employees," Dr Lewis says. "It also underlines the need for a

longer term follow-up of mobile families to examine the psychological well-being of mothers and the factors which appear to cause or prevent symptoms of psychological distress."



RODNEY HOBSON Dr Lewis: wives suffer

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Southern comfort

Esso's exploration expertise led it to a lucky strike in Leatherhead

ESSO plotted the location of all its head office staff on a map. Somewhere about the middle of all the little dots stood Leatherhead. So when the oil company left its head quarters in Victoria, central London, it headed southwest into Surrey (Rodney Hobson writes).

Esso decided to move because it had outgrown its London premises. The offices in Victoria were built in the 1950s in a different business environment.

Technology had outgrown the building. Leatherhead looked an excellent choice because it was possible to buy a greenfield site and construct a purpose-built building.

The move began in June this year and took until August. "The relocation was carried out over seven weekends, to avoid disruption. We moved one department at a time," says Gerry Marks, the sales manager at Harrow Green Removals, who was the control manager for the move.

"Esso staff went home on Friday night and everything was ready for work on Monday morning."

Weekend moves are popular among larger companies, although it is sometimes possible to move smaller businesses overnight.

"There is only so much a building can take," Mr Marks says. "The speed of the lifts determines how fast you can move the furniture in to a building."

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ROWING

Lightweight crew's success inspires a revival in the rain

From RICHARD BURNELL in TASMANIA

TORRENTIAL rain and mud remnant of Henley Royal Regatta may have made British crews feel at home on Lake Barrington yesterday. Certainly for the first time during these world rowing championships they shrugged off the doubts of the first two days and started to produce positive results.

The lightweight four showed the way, racing off the start at 41 and leading all the way from Italy and the United States to earn a place in the final. They were never headed and were easing up at 37, when they crossed the line. Australia, winning the other repechage heat, were five seconds slower.

In the men's lightweight double sculls, James Hartland and Richard Stait needed a third place to qualify for their semi-final, and got that safely. Joanne Gough and Katharine Grose needed a second place to reach the final of the women's pairs, and shook off Rita de Jong and Anita Meiland, of The Netherlands, in the first 500 metres to finish three seconds behind Anna Seaton and Stephanie Maxwell, of the United States.

The women's lightweight four made a slow start behind China, the world champions, Australia and the United States, but after 1,000 metres found their stride and never looked back, winning by three seconds from China. The men's lightweight four also caught that winning feeling, leading all the way from Switzerland and Austria to qualify for their semi-final.

Less convincing, but perhaps rowing to plan, the lightweight eight led Denmark and the United States off the start but, over the second half of the course, allowed the United States, Australia and Denmark to go past them. Their fourth place was good enough to qualify for the final, but they have yet to demonstrate the finishing power for which they are famed.

The heavyweight coxless four, who needed a second place to qualify for the final, passed the Yugoslavs in the last 500 metres to finish overlapping the Netherlands and three quarters of a length ahead of the United States.

The heavyweight eight faced a formidable task, needing to finish first or second

against the Soviet Union, Italy and Australia. After 500 metres they lay third, behind the Soviet Union and Italy. Soon after the 1,000-metre mark, they moved past Italy, and in a storming finish pulled ahead of the Soviet Union.

There have to be some tears on even the happiest day, and they were shed for and by the women's heavyweight four. Needing a second place to reach the final, against Canada and the United States, they were a little too slow off the start. At the finish they fought back magnificently, but were denied a place in the final by the United States in a photo-finish.

So from 14 starters, Britain already has seven crews in the grand finals, the heavyweight eight and both heavyweight fours, the lightweight eight and four, the women's heavyweight pair and the lightweight four.

Pinsent and Redgrave, in the men's heavyweight pairs, the heavyweight quad and the lightweight men's double and quad scullers start in tomorrow's semi-finals. Britain's strength in depth is already clearly established.

RESULTS FROM TASMANIA

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|------------|--|
| Men | Lightweight single sculls (first two to semi-finals): 1. M. Purdie (NZ), 2.37.88; 2. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 3. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 4. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 5. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 6. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 7. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 8. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 9. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 10. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 11. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 12. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 13. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 14. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 15. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 16. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 17. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 18. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 19. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 20. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 21. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 22. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 23. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 24. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 25. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 26. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 27. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 28. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 29. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 30. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 31. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 32. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 33. J. Gough (GB), 2.37.88; 34. J. 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Traininglot can make second successful foray to Newmarket

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

TRAININGLOT, the six-length winner of the Tote Cesarewitch 12 days ago, is named to make a triumphant return to the scene of his most important success by landing the George Stubbs Stakes at Newmarket today.

With Willie Carson again in the saddle, Traininglot will be hard to beat, even though today's race is over a distance two furlongs shorter than the second leg of the autumn double.

A remarkable aspect of the Cesarewitch was the way that Traininglot and the runner-up, Further Flight, dominated proceedings throughout the last half mile. Further Flight finishing ten lengths ahead of the third horse, Clifton Chapel.

The Cesarewitch confirmed that Traininglot had improved considerably since finishing only fifth behind Further Flight in the Ebor Handicap at York. To win again today, that improvement needs to be sustained.

For Arzanni, today's race represents a considerable step up in distance as all his form has been over 1 1/2 miles. Not so, Chelsea Girl, who won today's trip at York in August prior to finishing a six-length second to River Test in

the Prix Gladiateur at Longchamp.

Unfortunately, Chelsea Girl has developed a maddening habit of digging her toes in at the start and forfeiting valuable ground.

Time alone will tell whether High Fountain was flustered in beating Crack by 25 lengths at Doncaster on Friday. Her earlier form did not point to her being that good.

Scales Of Justice is my choice for the Cognac Courvoisier Handicap. John Hill's filly accounted for Regent Lad at Redcar last time out and, on the book, Regent Lad has a clear chance of taking his revenge this time.

However, Scales Of Justice is preferred since Regent Lad failed to win a race at Doncaster last Friday that looked like the for the taking.

In the two divisions of the EBF Terrace House Maiden Stakes, our Newmarket correspondent, George Robinson, is particularly keen on the chances of the newcomers Shihama (1.45) and Almaaseh (3.50).

Shihama is the first foal of that good mare, Dubian, by Shaded and by all accounts she has been delighting her trainer, Alex Scott.

Almaaseh is even better

bred, since she is by Dancing Brave out of Al Bahahiri, classic winners both. True to her pedigree, she has shown bags of ability on the health.

Military Fashion, my selection for the Murless Stakes, suffered a hairline fracture of a cannon-bone in the spring. Given plenty of time to make a full recovery by his trainer, Luca Cumani, he nearly made up for lost time at the first attempt at Ascot three weeks ago when going down by only half a length to the useful Halston Prince on his belated seasonal debut.

On the jumping front at Kempton, the Terrace Handicap Chase may be won by Damers Cavalry, even though his opposition includes Karrier Reference, the surprising winner of the Charnish Gold Cup over course and distance 12 days ago. Trained by Richard Lee, Damers Cavalry did nothing but improve last season.

La Cienega, who was such an impressive winner at Cheltenham first time out, can go from strength to strength by capturing the Kone Lifts Novices' Hurdle.

At Stratford, Squadron still looks on a reasonable mark in the Archie Scott Memorial Gold Cup.

Adams overcomes problems to land memorable victory

By RICHARD EVANS

THE 1990 medical record of Andrew Adams resembles an injury list from a hospital casualty ward on a bad day but yesterday he overcame months of pain and heartbreak to ride Party Politics to victory in the Listed Vickers Memorial Handicap Chase at Newbury.

The young Upper Lambourn jockey crushed three veteran at Kempton two seasons ago but his problems really began in March when he broke his right leg in three places.

Three operations to the leg, eight weeks spent in plaster and a further month of recuperation were followed by an uphill struggle to regain fitness. On his first ride back at Newton Abbot on September 7 he was unseated from Tarn at the fourth fence and suffered a punctured lung and fractures to two ribs.

Adams, aged 25, returned to the saddle at Hereford on Friday, where he remained unscathed. The thought of riding Party Politics again has helped to keep Adams going during the bleak weeks of the sidelining.

The massive six-year-old - he is 18 hands high - is a most promising chaser and yesterday was ridden exquisitely to pasteurise the long-time leader.

Nick Gaslee intends to send the winner to Cheltenham next month for the BMW Final.

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Adams rode outstanding Party Politics to victory in the Vickers Memorial Handicap Chase at Newbury.

are people worse off than me, however, and days like this make it all worthwhile."

Henrietta Knight continued her outstanding start to the jump season when Johnny Wall became her eleventh winner from 19 runners but it was to tell who was more surprised by the victory in the EBF Novices' Hurdle, the trainer or Lord Chelsea, deputy senior winner of the Jockey Club and the gelding's owner.

"I told the owner I would be very happy if he finished in the first half of the field," said Knight, who bought the horse in Ireland 18 months ago as a prospective chaser.

Topham Bay jumped particularly well to win the BMW Series Qualifier and will make a quick reappearance at Cheltenham on Saturday while Babil, the 2-1 favourite, ran out an easy winner of a below-standard Tom Masson Trophy.

Piggott set to ride in Hong Kong Derby

LESTER Piggott is likely to ride in the Hong Kong Derby as part of a month-long stay in the colony next February.

Piggott has been granted an international jockey's licence by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and will have his first ride at Happy Valley on February 6.

The RHKJC's director of racing, Philip Johnston, said yesterday: "We have received an approach in relation to a visitor's licence for Lester Piggott and we have said that we would be pleased to have him in February when there are a number of excellent races on the calendar, including the Derby."

Piggott hopes to hear from the Society of Encouragement today as to whether he has been granted a licence to ride in France.

He was seen yesterday at Maisons-Laffitte by Dr Boudere, who requested a blood test and an electrocardiogram. Dr Johnston said: "We are very pleased to have Lester Piggott and we have said that we would be pleased to have him in February when there are a number of excellent races on the calendar, including the Derby."

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Katabatic tops the Mackeson market

KATABATIC was yesterday installed 7-1 favourite for the Mackeson Gold Cup by Cornish following the publication of the weights for the first big race of the National Hunt season at Cheltenham on Saturday week.

The winner of the Grand Annual Chase at the National Hunt Festival last season is one of 45 entries for the £20,000-added handicap chase over 2 1/2 miles.

Andy Tunnell's seven-year-old, a promising fourth over hurdles at Stratford ten days ago, could face opposition from two previous winners.

Piggott Bay, the 1988 winner, heads the entries with 12 stone while last year's winner, Joint Sovereignty, has 10st 8lb.

Martin Pipe and Gordon

Richards hold strong hands with five entries apiece. The weights were also published yesterday for the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on November 24 and Mr Frisk, the Grand National winner, remains on target for a difficult despite being handicapped with 11st 11lb.

"We've obviously been handicapped right up to our best form," Kim Bailey, his trainer, said yesterday. "But the race has always been on aim and all being well we will definitely run."

Bailey declared himself happy with Mr Frisk's current well-being and plans to run him in the Campowder Hunt Handicap Chase at Sandown on Saturday.

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NEWMARKET

Selections

| By Mandarin | By Our Newmarket Correspondent |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.15 Perfolia | 1.15 Perfolia |
| 1.45 Shihama | 1.45 Shihama |
| 2.15 Scales Of Justice | 2.15 Scales Of Justice |
| 2.50 TRAININGLOT (nap) | 2.50 Chelsea Girl |
| 3.20 Military Fashion | 3.20 Military Fashion (nap) |
| 3.50 Almaaseh | 3.50 Almaaseh |

Going: good Draw: no advantage SIS

| 1.15 QUEENSBERRY HOUSE MAIDEN STAKES (2,530: 7f) (9 runners) | 1.45 SHIHAMA (2,530: 7f) (9 runners) |
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| 101 (8) 04384 BATTLE OF FLOWERS 12 (P) Pritchard C Wall 3-8-12 N Day 88 | 101 (8) 04384 BATTLE OF FLOWERS 12 (P) Pritchard C Wall 3-8-12 N Day 88 |
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| 110 (17) 04393 BATTLE OF FLOWERS 12 (P) Pritchard C Wall 3-8-12 N Day 88 | 110 (17) 04393 BATTLE OF FLOWERS 12 (P) Pritchard C Wall 3-8-12 N Day 88 |

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Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 04332 GOOD TIMES 74 (C/O P.J. O'S) (Mrs D Robertson) 8 Ball 9-10-0 B West (8) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Stature in form in parentheses. P - previous winner. S - second place. R - runner-up. D - disqualified. Horse's name. Days since last win. Jockey. Trainer. Age. Weight. Race. V - victor. H - hood. E - eyeblink. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD - course and distance winner.

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Everton dismiss Harvey in the wake of defeat

By IAN ROSS

COLIN Harvey became football's first managerial casualty of the season yesterday when Everton dismissed him. The remaining eight months of Harvey's contract was cancelled with immediate effect after the Everton board of directors had met in emergency session to discuss the club's disappointing start to the season.

The decision to end Harvey's 27-year association with the Merseyside club was taken within hours of Tuesday night's 3-1 Rumbelows Cup third-round defeat by Sheffield United at Bramall Lane. Everton are seventeenth in the first division, having won only one of their ten League fixtures.

Tuesday's result, allied to Everton's plight in the League, was sufficient to prompt Philip Carter, the club chairman, to part company with Harvey, who was appointed manager in June 1987 after Howard Kendall, now in charge of Manchester City, had resigned to take up the post of coach with Athletic Bilbao, the Spanish first division club.

Although Jimmy Gabriel, Everton's first-team coach, has been placed in charge on a caretaker basis, Everton are searching for a successor to

Harvey and hope to announce an appointment soon.

Although the post is to be advertised, it is clear that Everton would be hoping for an early response from one of four managers, namely Arthur Cox, of Derby County, Joe Royle, of Oldham Athletic, Steve Coppell, of Crystal Palace, and Ron Atkinson, of Sheffield Wednesday.

However, with Atkinson signing a new two-year contract only yesterday lunchtime and Coppell an instrumental figure in Palace's recent renaissance, Everton's provisional shortlist of candidates who are deemed to be suitable may be halved.

Royle, who played alongside Harvey in Everton's League championship-winning side of 1970, is known to be a measure of support among the club's directors, and he is certain to be interested in a return to his native city, even though his loyalty to the second division leaders was emphasised last season when he declined an invitation to succeed Mel Machin at Maine Road.

Cox, who is rumoured to be unsettled at the Baseball Ground, is a popular figure with those members of the Everton hierarchy who believe that a tough disciplinarian is

required to underpin the club's obvious talent.

Harvey's dismissal was announced in a club statement. It read: "Philip Carter, chairman, thanked Colin Harvey for his contribution over 14 years but stated that the team's recent performances were unacceptable."

Ironically, yesterday morning, before being told of his board's decision, Harvey had insisted that he would not resign. He also appeared to point an accusing finger at several of his players in the wake of Tuesday's embarrassing defeat by the first division's bottom team.

"Why should I walk away? I am not the type of person to give in. I am still very determined and want to get on with the job in hand," he said. "Because of the circumstances, the match at Sheffield United was important to everyone at this club, but I did not feel that it hurt certain people when we lost. No manager can tolerate that."

Despite inheriting a side that had won the League championship the previous season, Harvey failed in his attempt to maintain Everton's position as England's premier club side, and he was powerless to prevent the gradual disintegration of a squad that had been patiently assembled by his long-time friend, Kendall.

In attempting to restore Everton to a position of prominence, Harvey bought and sold freely. During his 40 months in charge he spent £10 million on 14 new players, while recouping £6.4 million by allowing 15 to leave Goodison Park.

In recent months Harvey had found himself embroiled in a series of disagreements with several senior players, notably Neville Southall, the Welsh international goalkeeper, who has repeatedly asked to be placed on the transfer list.

Close ties with the club

COLIN Harvey, aged 45, was born in Liverpool and his association with Everton began in 1963 when, aged 18, he made his senior debut in a European Cup tie against Inter Milan in the San Siro Stadium (Ian Ross writes).

He developed into an outstanding midfielder player, although his success at club level was never fully reflected in the international arena, for he won just one full England cap, against Malta in 1971.

He was in the side that defeated Sheffield Wednesday 3-2 in the 1966 FA Cup final and he won a League cham-

ionship medal in 1970.

After making more than 380 senior appearances for Everton, he was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday in 1974, but his career was cut short by a hip injury.

He returned to Goodison Park two years later as youth team coach, and went on to become Everton's ninth full-time manager in 48 years in June 1987.

Harvey's only success as a manager was on August 1, 1987, when Everton defeated Coventry City, the FA Cup holders, 1-0 at Wembley to win the Charity Shield.

European League ruled out

MILAN (AP) — Joseph Blatter, the secretary-general of Fifa, has ruled out the formation of a European Super League for football. He said that the idea, suggested by the presidents of AC Milan and Real Madrid, was a non-starter.

"Such a super league would mean the death of national leagues," Blatter, in an interview with the Italian sports weekly, *L'Espresso*, said.

"With the super tournament on television, fans

would not go to the stadiums. Football needs supporters near the playing ground, also in amateur games, otherwise it dies."

Blatter also said that the main aim of Fifa, football's ruling body, is to have more goals scored. "We have a precise idea in mind that will make the work of defences more difficult, help offence and improve the show."

He added that recent suggestions to change some rules — including wider goals

and teams with fewer players — were intended to improve scoring chances and make the game more exciting.

He also blamed coaches for the overly defensive tactics which produced several dull games during the World Cup, including the final between West Germany and Argentina.

Any rule changes will be discussed at a Fifa meeting on December 13, and possibly submitted for approval to the international board in Belfast



The end of the road: Harvey, who yesterday became the League's first managerial casualty of the season

Ambassador of fair play

By DAVID MILLER

GARY Lineker last night received, on behalf of the England World Cup team, the Stanley Matthews Fair Play Trophy, presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at the annual dinner of the British Sports Trust and sponsored by Umbro. In the contemporary world of expedient professionalism, few players more unfailingly represent old standards of sportsmanship than Lineker does.

More so even than Matthews in his prime — which lasted, many would say, all of his 33 years as a professional — Lineker is unceremoniously whacked from every angle and height in almost every match. This is the price of being one of the world's foremost goalscorers. I have never seen him retaliate.

"If we're going to continue with the present vein of fair play," Lineker said last night, "and improve the public's impression of us, that we're not so badly behaved, we can't afford what happened the other week [at Old Trafford]."

Although it could not be claimed that the whole of the England team is as innocent as a lamb in its tackling, in what is a muscular contact sport, its behaviour in Italy last summer was a credit to the country and to itself, and this was recognised by all observers.

The third-place match against Italy was as fine an example of the sport as the first-place match was a disgrace.

"It took the World Cup to demonstrate we're a pretty fair lot," Lineker says. "You get occasional silly incidents here that you can't condone at all, that nobody likes, but the game's better off here than it is abroad, I think."

In the days of George Best at his matchless peak, there was a first division trainer who used to sit on the bench beside the manager, hollering at the players: "Break his effing leg."

Lineker questions whether that attitude still exists. "If I'm naive, forgive me," he says. "I get whacked, defenders get in hard, early on, to try to put you off your game, but I've never thought someone was out to break my bones. But bruises soon rub off."

One of the most exasperating sights, as a spectator, is the fact that too many players appeal, simultaneously from both sides, for almost every throw-in, every goalkick/corner-kick decision, heightening the burden upon the referee. Lineker agrees.

"I've great sympathy for the referee," he says. "There are silly appeals, too many complaints to the referee. A lot of

the time it's frustration, you've just lost the ball. We are all under great pressure, and often that's the way it shows."

Does Lineker "dive"? There are those who say that, since he came back from Spain, he is more than before hoping unreasonably for the referee's whistle. He denies it.

"Instinctively, you always try to stay on your feet," he says. "Especially if you're going at goal. If you've got your back to goal and you're whacked from behind, that's different. Your control of the ball is more seriously affected, you'll probably lose it. But if you've already got the ball, you're more dangerous standing up."

My own view would be that referees still give attacking players with their back to goal too little protection from the tackle that goes through the legs.

Lineker's opinion is that violence in some of the World Cup qualifying games was worse than it was in Italy, and that the most frustrating thing is man-for-man markers trying to stop opponents making a run by holding their shirt or arm. It does not stop him smiling, however, and continuing to be one of the most attractive sights in the game.

FA Cup deal is labelled a stunt

By LOUISE TAYLOR

A SUGGESTION from Abby Dharansay, the owner of Santana Pools, that his company was poised to make a £9 million offer to sponsor the FA Cup, was dismissed as a "publicity stunt" by the Football Association (FA) yesterday.

David Bloomfield, the FA's press officer, said: "We have had no contact with Santana Pools, although with do have a meeting scheduled for later in the week, so they can ask about the possibility of using FA Cup matches on their coupons. This is a publicity stunt."

Dharansay, whose two-week old company was run from an estate agent's office — was examined by accountants from Westminster Council after a flood of entries, said he will make his bid tomorrow.

"I will offer the FA £9 million on the spot for two years' sponsorship, if they agree to change the name of the cup to the Santana Cup."

Local authorities have agreed that Littlehampton can play their FA Cup tie with Northampton on November 17 at their home ground, which holds only 3,000.

The decision about the all-ticket game was taken yesterday after a meeting between the local police, council and fire service.

Newcastle launch share offer

NEWCASTLE United yesterday launched a share issue that they hope could raise £8 million. (A Special Correspondent writes). Supporters are being offered eight million shares in an attempt to raise finance for team building and the redevelopment of St James' Park.

The share issue could also put control of the club into the hands of supporters. But with Christmas approaching and United in the middle of a poor run of results, there remains a question mark over how many supporters will be prepared to pay the minimum investment of £100.

The club chairman, Gordon McKeag, said yesterday: "Buying the shares probably won't make anybody rich, but we feel sure that people will take great pride and obtain much satisfaction from becoming a shareholder in this famous club."

John Hall, who led the rebel Maggie Group and is now on the United board, said: "In theory, the board have given up control, if the public respond to the share issue."

Praise for Olympic bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Princess Royal yesterday praised Manchester's unsuccessful bid to stage the 1996 Olympic Games, saying that she was proud to be a member of the delegation.

Her words will encourage the British Olympic Association (BOA), of which the Princess is president, to support an attempt by Manchester or London to hold the event in the year 2000.

The Princess said: "The Manchester bid was very successful. I think it did great credit to Manchester. Everyone behaved in an exemplary manner. I was relieved I was not involved with other bidding cities."

She said that Manchester's reaction was "positive and not negative. It understood the value of the bid itself. The BOA owes Manchester great

thanks for fulfilling its role so well."

Bob Scott, the chairman of the Manchester committee, said that although the city only got 11 votes in the first round and five in the second, the feeling was that they would try again. "We have not yet had a formal committee meeting but the local authority is unanimous in support."

It would be helpful, if the BOA is to support a candidate, that this is done by June 1991 when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) holds a session in Birmingham. Next June would be an ideal opportunity for all the members of the IOC to see the proposed facilities.

However, this is a tight schedule. It will only be next month when the BOA general

purposes committee will begin discussing even whether to attempt to hold the Games and, if so, in what year. However, the final decision on even whether to support a candidate is unlikely to be made until April.

Scott said: "The question is whether the BOA thinks Manchester can get the Games. If the BOA decided on London then I would support that. However, I am hoping to persuade the association not to make that decision." He said that the key feature of any attempt would be to get some building of the main stadium on the way.

The IOC will vote on the venue for the 2000 Games in September 1993. Peking, Paris, Berlin and Melbourne are all likely to be rivals.

Welsh stadium needs further work on safety

WELSH Rugby Union (WRU) officials have pledged to carry out any necessary safety work to ensure the match between the Barbarians and the Argentinians can go ahead in Cardiff on November 17.

Although the WRU has recently spent £1.25 million on improving safety at the National Stadium, it has been presented with a list of deficiencies.

In a report from South Glamorgan County Council's safety working party, the main areas of concern include lighting, lack of communication and poor stewarding.

"We will comply with whatever provisions are demanded," Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said.

Match reports, page 42

Jahangir vacates peak to Jansher

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

JAHANGIR Kahn's physical breakdown in North America earlier this month has already translated into punishing professional form. On the new world ranking list issued today by the International Squash Players Association he has dropped to second place behind his Pakistani compatriot, Jansher Kahn, the world champion.

Beaten in the national league this week by Jansher, the man who led the world game almost without interruption since 1981 must now face the prospect of losing contact with the top ranking for ever.

Jahangir's drop follows his defeat in four tournaments since his record ninth successive victory in the British Open last April. He incurred zero points in withdrawing from the US Open and Canadian Open after losing in the Stretch Challenge semi-final.

A late withdrawal from next month's world open in Toulouse will attract another zero rating and probably push him lower than second spot for the first time in a decade. Jansher, conversely, has won seven tournaments and lost only once.

The top European is Mark Maclean, of Scotland, at nine, a ranking with some time on invitation to the NSZ Masters in Monte Carlo at the end of November in place of the Harris, the British No. 1 who is 11th on the new list.

ISPA RANKINGS: Leading 20. 1. Jansher Kahn (Pak); 2. Jahangir Kahn (Pak); 3. G. Robertson (Aus); 4. R. Martin (Aus); 5. C. Carrararo (Aus); 6. B. Martin (Aus); 7. A. Hargrave (Aus); 8. E. Eyles (Aus); 9. H. Harris (GB); 10. S. Ego (Esp); 11. U. Narmann (Ger); 12. S. Ego (Esp); 13. U. Narmann (Ger); 14. S. Ego (Esp); 15. P. Davies (Wales); 16. S. Ego (Esp); 17. P. Davies (Wales); 18. S. Ego (Esp); 19. P. Davies (Wales); 20. F. Johnson (Swe).

League review, page 40

Unsinkable All Black boat hits troubled waters

Nantes IN THE planning stage, the New Zealand rugby union tour of France looked likely to be no more than another stepping stone in the smooth build-up of the world champions for the World Cup in less than a year.

Alex Wyllie, the coach of the All Blacks, viewed the tour as an opportunity to develop a few young players for future campaigns, rebuild the morale of the side after the defeat in the third international against Australia, and give two of his best players, John Kirwan and Michael Jones — recently recovered from serious injury — a chance to recapture their match fitness.

Yet with only three of the eight matches left, those plans are in disarray. The apparently invincible All Blacks have already been beaten twice, and the first international against France is only three days away. That match takes place here in Nantes, the scene four years ago

of a famous defeat for the All Blacks by France. From that day in November 1986, until August this year, the All Blacks were unbeaten, surrendering their record to Australia but having already won the Bledisloe Cup series.

The painful process of rebuilding the side has been hampered by the slow recovery from injury of Kirwan and Jones. Both have played on the tour, but neither seems to have recaptured the edge that made them so effective during the last few years.

Following Sheldford's sudden departure, Gary Whetton took over the captaincy, but experienced New Zealand hands have expressed doubts about his capacity to steer the boat out of troubled waters. And the man who might be able to, Mike Brewer, long tipped as a captain in

players like Wayne Sheldford, John Gallagher and John Schuster.

Sheldford was discarded after the series against Scotland, when Wyllie felt that his fitness was well past par. Gallagher, Schuster, Botica and Ridge joined rugby league clubs. It is believed that only the sudden call to international duty prevented the present No. 8, Zinzan Brooke, from following suit.

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waiting, is unable to command a regular place in the team.

Wyllie has acknowledged that the loss of several seasoned players has severely weakened his side, but he also blames the tour itinerary. "No country could afford to lose the players we have lost this year," Wyllie said. "Their experience and knowledge has been sorely missed. Additionally, it is very hard to develop a side under such terrible pressures. We knew that this tour was going to be very hard both off the field and on the field. However, it is like playing two Tests each week. The wear and tear process make it very hard."

Wyllie's predicament has been magnified by his stubborn refusal to accept a backs coach, as suggested by Sheldford after his departure, a move that would bring the former Auckland coach, John Hart, back into the fold.

By refusing to share the load of coaching, Wyllie has taken on the whole responsibility for the performance of the team on tour. An attempt by the chairman of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, Eddie Tonks, to mediate between Wyllie and Hart has reportedly ended in failure.

And so the tour goes on. The measure of Wyllie's anxiety may be gauged, perhaps, by the comparatively conservative selection he has made for the first international, standing by the players who have served him well in the past.

The strength of the French opposition apart, it is quite clear that the All Blacks have reached a turning point. By the end of the tour we will know how sharp it is.

NEW ZEALAND TEAM vs France: K. Crowley; J. Kirwan; M. Jones; T. Liddle; T. Whetton; G. R. F. Brown; R. Loe; S. Phipps; S. Macdonald; A. Whetton; J. Jones; G. Whetton (captain); Michael Jones; M. Brewer (2 Brookes).

Namibia's plans, page 42



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